

DECEMBER - 2023



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1. Kangla Palace is a historical and archaeological site of which state?

- A. Assam
- B. Odisha
- C. Manipur ☒
- D. Meghalaya



- ✓ The Indian Navy received the warship Imphal from Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) in Mumbai. The crest design depicts the Kangla Palace on the left and 'Kangla-Sa' on the right.
- ✓ Kangla Palace is an important historical and archaeological site of Manipur and was the traditional seat of the kingdom. With a dragon's head and lion's body, the 'Kangla-Sa' is the state emblem of Manipur. Imphal is the third of the four warships sanctioned under an important project called P-15B.

2. Which Union Ministry launched a national protocol to provide training of anganwadi workers to help children with disabilities?

- A. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
- B. Ministry of Women and Child Development ☒
- C. Ministry of MSME
- D. Ministry of Home Affairs



महिला एवं
बाल विकास मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF
WOMEN AND
CHILD DEVELOPMENT

सत्यमेव जयते

- ✓ The government launched a national protocol to provide for training of anganwadi workers to track and help children with disabilities. The anganwadi eco-system reaches out to over eight crore children from birth to six years on a daily basis, according to a statement issued by the Ministry Women and Child Development. According to the Draft National Policy for Persons with Disabilities 2021, one-third of most disabilities in India are estimated to be preventable, if they are detected early enough and adequately addressed.

3. ASEAN India Grassroots Innovation Forum (AIGIF) was launched in which country?

- A. Thailand
- B. Vietnam
- C. Malaysia ☒
- D. Singapore



- ✓ India along with 10 ASEAN Member States (AMS) were represented by 200 participants, at the 4th edition of the annual ASEAN India Grassroots Innovation Forum (AIGIF) that was launched in Langkawi, Malaysia. The AIGIF is an annual programme focused on fostering a strengthened relationship between India and AMS on the premise of cooperation in Science, Technology and Innovation (STI).

- ✓ Department of Science & Technology (DST) and National Innovation Foundation (NIF) of India and the Science and Technology Ministry of the host nation, Malaysia collaborated for the event.

4. What is the target year of ending AIDS as a public health threat, set by the United Nations?

- A. 2025
B. 2027
C. 2030 ☒
D. 2035



- ✓ The UN first set out in 2015 the target of ending AIDS as a public health threat by 2030. There are 39 million people around the world living with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS. Of them, 20.8 million are in eastern and southern Africa and 6.5 million are in Asia and the Pacific.

5. 'Krishnaveni Sangeetha Neerajanam' festival is associated with which state?

- A. Uttarakhand
B. Andhra Pradesh ☒
C. Sikkim
D. Arunachal Pradesh



पर्यटन मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF
TOURISM

- ✓ The Union Ministry of Tourism in association with Ministry of Culture, Sangeet Natak Academy and State Government of Andhra Pradesh successfully organised the prequel event of Krishnaveni Sangeetha Neerajanam. It is a first of its kind festival to celebrate the rich heritage of classical music and promote lesser-known tourist attractions. The main event is to be organized in December 2023 in Vijayawada. The event will also feature spectacular display and sale of regional cuisine, local handicrafts and handlooms.

6. Pressmud is a residual byproduct obtained in which industry?

- A. Automobile
B. Sugar ☒
C. Coal
D. Steel



- ✓ Pressmud, a residual byproduct in the sugar industry often known as filter cake or press cake, has been acknowledged as a valuable resource for green energy production. The byproduct can help Indian sugar mills generate extra revenue by utilising it as a feedstock for biogas production through anaerobic digestion and subsequent purification to create compressed biogas (CBG).

7. 'Raas Mahotsav or Raas Leela festival' is celebrated in which state?

- A. Goa
- B. Assam ☒
- C. Meghalaya
- D. Kerala



- ✓ The annual Raas Mahotsav or Raas Leela has started in Assam's Majuli, the world's largest inhabited river island. Majuli is the core of Assamese Neo-Vaishnavism. The river island over the river Brahmaputra has dozens of Vaishnavite monasteries, locally called Satras. Locals perform Bhaona, a traditional form of drama where artists play various mythological characters.
- ✓ Bhaona was started in the fifteenth or sixteenth century by a social-religious reformer and a figure of importance in the cultural and religious history of Assam, Srimanta Sankardeva.

8. 'AstroSat' is a space telescope launched by which country?

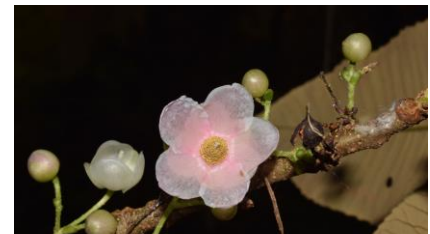
- A. USA
- B. Russia
- C. India ☒
- D. China



- ✓ India's AstroSat space telescope has crossed a major milestone by detecting 600th Gamma-Ray Burst (GRB). The Gamma Ray Bursts represent either the death of a massive or merger of neutron stars. AstroSat was launched in the year 2015 by Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO). It was designed to last for five years. However, it has exceeded its lifespan and is still functioning fine making important observations.

9. Saurauia Punduana plant, a critically endangered species, has been recorded for the first time in which Indian state?

- A. Goa
- B. Manipur ☒
- C. West Bengal
- D. Karnataka



- ✓ A critically endangered species as per the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List, has been recorded for the first time in Manipur's Tamenglong district. The Saurauia Punduana plant was recorded during a recent Rapid Biodiversity Assessment (RBA) field survey. The survey covered the key areas of the biodiversity heritage sites of Longku forest. The local people call this plant as Anoibang.

10. Which city is the host of the '2030 World Expo'?

- A. Riyadh ☒
- B. Rome
- C. New Delhi
- D. Geneva



- ✓ The Saudi Arabian capital of Riyadh won the right to host the Expo 2030 world fair, in another diplomatic victory for a Gulf country after soccer World Cup. South Korea's port city of Busan and Rome in Italy were also in the running to host the five-yearly event that attracts millions of visitors and billions of dollars in investment.

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1. Mahe, Malvan and Mangrol are the names of which products recently launched?

- A. Anti Submarine Warships ☒
- B. Unmanned Aerial Vehicles
- C. Submarines
- D. Intercontinental Missiles



- ✓ **Mahe, Malvan and Mangrol, the first three ships of Shallow Water Craft (SWC) project were launched recently. The contract for building eight ASW SWC ships was signed between the Ministry of Defence and Cochin Shipyard Limited in 2019.**

2. Which state clinched the title of 13th Senior National men's hockey championship?

- A. Tamil Nadu
- B. Punjab ☒
- C. Rajasthan
- D. Kerala



- ✓ **Punjab defeated the defending champions Haryana in a penalty shootout to clinch the title in the Senior Men's National Hockey Championship in Chennai. Punjab skipper and India player Harmanpreet Singh scored for Punjab. Earlier, Tamil Nadu overwhelmed Karnataka 5-3 in penalty shootout to take the bronze medal.**

3. MICE industry, which was seen in the news, is associated with which sector?

- A. Mines and Minerals
- B. Meetings and Conferences ☒
- C. Milk and Meat
- D. Medicines and Chemicals



- ✓ **India's Union Ministry of Tourism hosted an industry round-table on developing the country as a MICE (Meetings, Incentives, Conferences, and Exhibitions) tourism destination in New Delhi. During India's G20 Presidency, more than 200 meetings have been organized in 56 cities across the country.**

4. Scheme for providing Drones to the Women Self Help Groups (SHGs) belongs to which category of scheme?

- A. Central Sector Scheme ☒
- B. Core Scheme
- C. Centrally Sponsored Scheme
- D. State Scheme



- ✓ The Union Cabinet has approved Central Sector Scheme for providing Drones to the Women Self Help Groups (SHGs), with an outlay of Rs 1261 Crore for the period from 2024-25 to 2025-26.
- ✓ The scheme aims to provide drones to 15,000 selected Women SHGs during the period 2023-24 to 2025-2026 for providing rental services to farmers for agriculture purpose, the scheme seeks to empower women Self Help Groups (SHGs) and bringing new technologies through drone services in agriculture sector.

5. Fast Track Special Court (FTSCS) Scheme was launched in which year?

- A. 2013
- B. 2017
- C. 2015
- D. 2019 ☒



- ✓ The Union Cabinet has approved the continuation of Fast Track Special Court (FTSCs) as, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) from 01.04.2023 to 31.03.2026 with financial implication of Rs. 1952.23 crore (Rs. 1207.24 crore as Central Share and Rs. 744.99 crore as State share). The Central Share is to be funded from Nirbhaya Fund. The Fast Track Special Court (FTSCs) Scheme was launched on 02.10.2019.

6. PM JANMAN scheme, which was launched recently, is associated with which category of people?

- A. MSME Owners
- B. Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups ☒
- C. Farmers
- D. Non-Resident Indians



- ✓ Union Cabinet approved a special development mission for Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTG) with a total outlay of over ₹24,104 crore over a three-year period. The scheme will focus on 11 critical interventions through 9 Ministries including Ministry of Tribal Affairs. An amount of Rs. 15,000 crores will be made available to implement the Mission in the next three years under the Development Action Plan for the Scheduled Tribes (DAPST).

7. Which institution launched the Periodic Labour Force Survey?

- A. NITI Aayog
- B. ILO
- C. NSSO ☒
- D. DPIIT



- ✓ National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) launched Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) Quarterly Bulletin for July - September 2023. As per the report, the unemployment rate in urban areas of the country decreased from 7.2% in July- September 2022 to 6.6% in July-September 2023.

8. Article 280(1) of the Constitutions lays down that the modalities for setting up which institution?

- A. Election Commission
- B. Finance Commission ☒
- C. Planning Commission
- D. NITI Aayog



वित्त मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF
FINANCE

- ✓ The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the Terms of Reference for the Sixteenth Finance Commission.
- ✓ The 16th Finance Commission's recommendations, upon the acceptance by the government, would cover the period of five years commencing Ap.1, 2026. Article 280(1) of the Constitutions lays down that the modalities for setting up of a Finance Commission. The Fifteenth Finance Commission was constituted in 2017, whose recommendations are valid up to the financial year 2025-26.

9. Who has been appointed as the Head Coach of Indian cricket team by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)?

- A. Rahul Dravid ☒
- B. Sachin Tendulkar
- C. Wasim Akram
- D. Mohammad Kaif



- ✓ Rahul Dravid has been reappointed as the head Coach of the Indian men's cricket team till the 2024 T20 World Cup. Paras Mhambrey (bowling coach), Vikram Rathore (batting coach) and T. Dilip (fielding coach) have also been reappointed.

10. Tushar Shelke and Sangeeta, who were seen in the news, is associated with which sports?

- A. Chess
- B. Archery ☒
- C. Tennis
- D. Cricket



- ✓ Tushar Shelke and Sangeeta claimed the recurve men and women titles in the National archery championships, Prathamesh Jawkar and World champion Aditi Swami took the men and women top titles in the compound division.

11. Angadvir Singh Bajwa and Ganemat Sekhon, who were seen in the news, is associated with which sports?

- A. Chess
- B. Shooting ☒
- C. Tennis
- D. Cricket



- ✓ Angadvir Singh Bajwa and Ganemat Sekhon won the mixed skeet gold for Punjab in the 66th National shooting championship. In the women's 50-metre rifle 3-position event, Asian Games champion Sift Kaur Samra beat Olympian Anjum Moudgil by 1.9 point for the gold.

12. Which film received the Special Jury or Silver Peacock Award at the 54th International Film Festival of India?

- A. Featherweight
B. Kantara ☒
C. Sarpatta Parambarai
D. A Thursday



- ✓ The Special Jury or Silver Peacock Award was given to the Kannada film 'Kantara', directed by Rishab Shetty at the 54th International Film Festival of India. Abbas Amini directed 'Endless Borders' which bagged the Best Film or the Golden Peacock Award, while the Best Director award went to Stephan Komandarev for the film 'Blaga's Lessons'.

13. Lalithambika, who received Top French honours, is the former director of ___?

- A. DRDO
B. ISRO ☒
C. BARC
D. CVC



- ✓ French ambassador to India honoured Lalithambika, former director, Directorate of the Human Spaceflight Programme of ISRO with Legion d'Honneur. Lalithambika has worked extensively on various ISRO rockets, especially PSLV. Lalithambika is the second ISRO scientist after former ISRO chairman A S Kiran Kumar to be awarded the Legion d'Honneur of France for promoting Indo-French space cooperation.

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1. Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC), that was recently in news, was established by which of these two organizations?

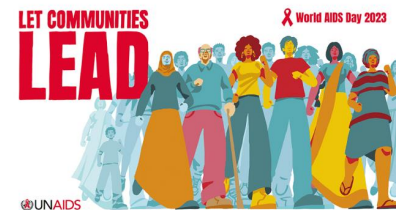
- A. FAO and UNICEF
- B. FAO and WHO ☒
- C. UNICEF and UNESCO
- D. World Bank and IMF



- ✓ **Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC)** is an intergovernmental body that develops food standards, guidelines, and codes of practice. The CAC was established in 1963 by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO). The CAC's headquarters are in Rome.
- ✓ **Recently, India's proposal at Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) meet for standards for millets.** The standards cover 15 varieties and will aid the promotion of millets in global trade and food markets. The CAC praised India's specifications. The decision comes as 2023 was declared the International Year of Millets to boost production and consumption.

2. What was the theme of World AIDS Day 2023?

- A. Bridges of Understanding
- B. Harmony in Healing
- C. Let Communities Lead ☒
- D. Community for Healing



- ✓ **World AIDS Day is observed on December 1st every year.** The theme for 2023 is "Let Communities Lead". This theme highlights the importance of communities in the HIV response and the goal of ending AIDS by 2030. World AIDS Day is an international day that raises awareness of the AIDS pandemic and mourns those who have died from the disease.

3. Which of the following is not a correct statement about Iyothee Thass Pandithar, whose statue was unveiled recently in Chennai?

- A. He founded Dravida Mahajana Sabha in 1891
- B. He launched a magazine Dravida Pandian
- C. He was a Vaidya/ Ayurvedic practitioner ☒
- D. All the above are correct statements



- ✓ **Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin unveiled a statue of pioneering anti-caste activist Iyothee Thass Pandithar in Chennai in December 2023.** Stalin hailed Iyothee Thass as the forerunner to Periyar in politically popularizing 'Tamizhan' and 'dravidan' identity terms.

- ✓ Born in 1845 in Madras, Iyothee Thass promoted Dravidian ideology through the Dravida Mahajana Sabha he founded in 1891 with Rettamalai Srinivasan. In 1876, Thass had set up the Advaidananda Sabha and launched the magazine 'Dravida Pandian' alongside Rev. John Rathina. After a life dedicated to social justice, Iyothee Thass passed away on May 5, 1914.

4. R. Vaishali, who was in news recently, plays which sports / game?

- A. Athletics
B. Carrom
C. Table Tennis
D. Chess ☒



- ✓ On December 1, 2023, R. Vaishali became India's third female chess Grandmaster. She is also India's 84th Grandmaster. Vaishali, 22, joined Koneru Humpy and D Harika as India's female Grandmasters. Humpy was the first Indian woman to become a Grandmaster in 2002 at the age of 15. Harika received the title 12 years ago.

5. What name has been given to the moon of asteroid named Dinkinesh discovered recently by NASA's Lucy spacecraft?

- A. Amani
B. Mwanga
C. Kesho
D. Selam ☒



- ✓ NASA's Lucy spacecraft recently discovered that an asteroid named Dinkinesh, which it flew past last month, has a tiny "contact binary" moon - two space rocks gently rested against each other. The International Astronomical Union approved the name "Selam" for this moon, meaning "peace" in Ethiopia's language. The names Dinkinesh and Selam refer to two famous hominid fossils discovered in Ethiopia.

6. "Panchamrit" pledge is related to ___:

- A. Poverty Eradication
B. Infrastructure Development
C. Combating Climate Change ☒
D. Regional Defence & Security



- ✓ India aims to reach 500GW non-fossil energy capacity by 2030 under "Panchamrit" pledge made at COP26 to combat climate change. Half of India's energy requirement will come from renewables while reducing carbon emission intensity of GDP by 45% over 2005 levels.

7. Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) has been extended till which year recently?

- A. 2025
- B. 2028 ☒
- C. 2030
- D. 2032



- ✓ The government has approved a five-year extension of the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY), its flagship free foodgrain scheme for the poor, beyond December 2023. Launched in 2020 to provide relief during the COVID-19 crisis, the PMGKAY supplies 5 kgs of free ration monthly to over 800 million beneficiaries covered under the National Food Security Act. The scheme will now continue till 2028 at an estimated expenditure of Rs 1.18 lakh crore annually.

8. At present (2023), Hydropower makes up around what fraction of India's energy mix?

- A. 50%
- B. 11% ☒
- C. 17%
- D. 25%



- ✓ Hydropower currently makes up around 11% of India's energy mix, as per government data. However, experts estimate the country has a total hydroelectric potential of 145 gigawatts (GW), of which only 29% has been utilized so far. Unlike coal power, hydropower offers flexible generation as the units can rapidly adjust output to match demand fluctuations.

9. Why did India not sign the global renewable energy pledge at the COP28 summit recently?

- A. Development concerns ☒
- B. Lack of resources
- C. Political disagreement
- D. Technological limitations



- ✓ India has declined to sign on to a global renewable energy pledge launched at the COP28 climate summit in Dubai. The pledge commits 118 nations to tripling installed renewable energy capacity globally by 2030. However, India opted out, along with China, Saudi Arabia, Russia and Iran. India remains committed to its own national renewable energy targets but could not agree to the terms of this specific pledge which could potentially hurt development priorities. India aims to have 50% non-fossil fuel installed electric capacity by 2030.

10. SWIS and STEPS instruments are related to which mission of ISRO?

- A. Aditya L1 ☒
- B. Chandrayaan
- C. Gaganyaan
- D. Mangalyaan



- ✓ India's Aditya L1 satellite has begun unravelling solar wind enigmas as two cutting-edge particle spectrometers commenced data gathering in recent months. The SWIS and STEPS instruments on the Aditya Solar Wind Particle Experiment payload have detected protons, Helium ions and energy histograms exhibiting solar wind behavior fluctuations near Sun-Earth Lagrange Point L1.

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1. Indian activist Safeena Hussain, who has been awarded the prestigious \$500,000 WISE Prize recently, has been awarded for her work related to:

- A. Girls' education ☒
- B. Environment
- C. Poverty
- D. Women empowerment



- ✓ Indian activist Safeena Hussain has been awarded the prestigious \$500,000 WISE Prize for her work promoting girls' education across rural India. Her NGO Educate Girls has helped over 1.4 million girls re-enroll in schools in remote villages, drawing global recognition to grassroots education reform.

2. Waters near which city are venue of biggest ever multilateral exercise Milan-2024 of Indian Navy?

- A. Goa
- B. Mumbai
- C. Vishakhapatnam ☒
- D. Cochin



- ✓ Indian Navy will conduct its biggest ever multilateral exercise Milan-2024 in Vizag deploying both its aircraft carriers, INS Vikramaditya and new indigenous INS Vikrant. The event involving 50 friendly foreign navies aims to demonstrate India's expanding military prowess as security provider in the Indian Ocean region.

3. Recently, Bharat Adivasi Party, a lesser-known tribal rights party clinched its first electoral win in which state?

- A. Chhattisgarh
- B. Madhya Pradesh ☒
- C. Mizoram
- D. Telangana



- ✓ A lesser-known tribal rights party clinched its debut electoral win in Madhya Pradesh, signalling the rising political assertion of marginalized adivasi communities.
- ✓ The Bharat Adivasi Party (BAP) candidate defeated opponents from national parties to capture the Sailana constituency, located in a scheduled tribe reserved seat. Rajkumar Roat, founder of the BAP has won the Chorasi seat in the 2023 Rajasthan Assembly polls. The party calls itself the first environment-friendly party.

4. Kavach technology is related to _:

- A. Railways ☒
- B. Cryptocurrency
- C. Mining
- D. Automobile



- ✓ India expects its indigenous rail safety system Kavach to be ready for international export within five years, as trials prove its effectiveness in preventing signal jumping and high-speed derailments. Kavach is being deployed across India's vast 66,000km railway network to curb accidents blamed on human error by controllers or drivers.
- ✓ The system is designed to bring any train violating signals or speed limits to a halt automatically using sensors and cameras that relay data to a central control room.

5. As per the recently announced roadmap by which year, there will be a mandatory 5% blending of compressed biogas (CBG) in city gas distribution (CGD)?

- A. 2024
- B. 2025
- C. 2027
- D. 2029 ☒



- ✓ The recently announced roadmap by the National Biofuels Coordination Committee (NBCC) lays out a phased plan for mandating blending of compressed biogas (CBG) into city gas distribution (CGD) networks across India.
- ✓ As per this roadmap, city gas distribution entities will have to start blending compressed biogas with compressed natural gas (CNG) for transportation and piped natural gas (PNG) for households from the financial year 2025-26. The blending percentage will be 1% of total compressed natural gas and piped natural gas consumption in FY26, progressively increasing to 3% in FY27 and 4% in FY28. From financial year 2028-29 onwards, the obligatory compressed biogas blending percentage has been set at 5% of overall CNG and domestic PNG demand.

6. Which country is recently re-elected to the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) Council with the highest tally?

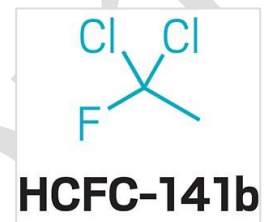
- A. India ☒
- B. Russia
- C. USA
- D. Japan



- ✓ The Assembly of the International Maritime Organisation has elected the Members of its Council for its assembly for the 2024-25 biennium. India has been re-elected to the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) Council with the highest tally. India's re-election falls under the Category of 10 states with "the largest interest in international seaborne trade", alongside Australia, Brazil, Canada, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

7. As per the report by the Environment ministry and UNDP, India has phased out which ozone depleting chemical?

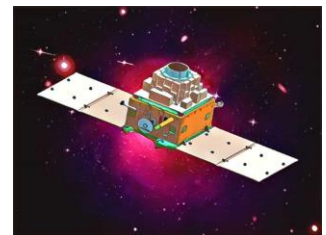
- A. HCFC 141b ☒
B. CCl₃F
C. Halon 1211
D. CFC-112



- ✓ As per a report by the Environment ministry and UNDP, India has successfully phased out ozone depleting and climate warming chemical HCFC 141b (1,1-Dichloro-1-fluoroethane) and is ahead of schedule in eliminating another such gas in new equipment manufacturing. As against the 35 per cent phase-out target for HCFCs, India has achieved an impressive 44 per cent reduction.

8. Which space organisation, has announced its plan to launch its first X-ray Polarimeter Satellite (XPoSat)?

- A. ISRO ☒
B. NASA
C. JAXA
D. ESA



- ✓ Indian Space Research Organisation has announced a plan to launch its first X-ray Polarimeter Satellite (XPoSat) aiming to investigate the polarisation of intense X-Ray sources. The mission objectives include - measurement of X-Ray polarization in the energy band of 8-30 keV emanated from X-Ray sources and long-term spectral and temporal studies of cosmic X-Ray sources in the energy band of 0.8-15 keV. The mission life is expected to be 5 years.

9. Where was the 5th edition of Global Ayurveda Festival held in 2023?

- A. Chennai
B. Mathura
C. Thiruvananthapuram ☒
D. Varanasi



- ✓ Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar recently inaugurated the 5th edition of Global Ayurveda Festival in Thiruvananthapuram in Kerala.

- ✓ The Global Ayurveda Festival (GAF) 2023 with the theme 'Emerging Challenges in Healthcare and a Resurgent Ayurveda' was held from 1 – 5 December. The conclave witnessed the participation of Kerala Governor, Chief Minister of Kerala, Union Ayush Minister, Union Minister of Animal Husbandry Parshottam Rupala, President of the Republic of Mauritius, Minister of State for Indigenous Medicine of Sri Lanka, among others.

10. Which institution releases official quarterly and annual estimates of India's Gross Domestic Product?

- A. NSO ☒
B. NITI Aayog
C. NASSCOM
D. DPIIT



- ✓ India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) grew at 7.6% in the July-September 2023 quarter, as per initial estimates from the National Statistical Office. GDP growth of 7.6 per cent beat most estimates, including 6.5 per cent projected by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). In the April-June quarter, the gross domestic product (GDP) growth was 6.2 percent.

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1. National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) functions under which Union Ministry?

- A. Ministry of Home Affairs ☒
- B. Ministry of Women and Child Development
- C. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
- D. Ministry of Justice



गृह मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF
HOME AFFAIRS

- ✓ A total of 4,45,256 cases of crime against women were registered across India in 2022, up from 4,28,278 in 2021 and 3,71,503 in 2020. The rate of crime against women per lakh population stood at 66.4 as per the data in the annual crime report of the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB).
- ✓ NCRB functions under the Union Ministry of Home Affairs. Delhi registered the highest rate of crime against women in the country at 144.4, while the country's average rate was 66.4. Uttar Pradesh (65,743) registered the maximum FIRS in cases of crime against women in 2022.

2. What is the name of the largest survey vessel built in India, which was recently delivered by GRSE?

- A. INS Sandhayak ☒
- B. INS Sahayak
- C. INS Sweekar
- D. INS Sandesh



- ✓ Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers delivered the largest survey vessel built in India, INS Sandhayak to the Indian Navy on Navy Day 2023. INS Sandhayak is the first in a series of four Survey Vessels (Large) being built by GRSE. It is a new version of a previous ship with the same name, which was a survey vessel in the Indian Navy from 1981 to 2021. These survey ships are capable of full-scale coastal and deep-water hydrographic survey of port and harbour approaches as well as the determination of navigation channels and routes.

3. Which institution releases 'Composite Water Management Index' in India?

- A. Jal Shakti Ministry
- B. NITI Aayog ☒
- C. WAPCOS
- D. DPIIT



NITI Aayog

- ✓ NITI Aayog has been publishing the Composite Water Management Index (CWMI) since 2018. So far two editions CWMI (June 2018) and CWMI 2.0. (August 2019) have been published. Subsequent edition of CWMI was prepared in August 2022 with delay due to the nationwide Covid-19 situation. NITI Aayog will come up with a combined report from the third to sixth edition of the Composite Water Management Index.

4. The names of tropical cyclones in the Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea are chosen from: _?

- A. Suggestion of various countries ☒
- B. Suggestion of UNESCO
- C. Suggestion of UNEP
- D. Suggestion of UNFCCC



- ✓ On December 5, Cyclone Michaung made landfall over Nellore in Andhra Pradesh as a super-cyclonic storm. A day earlier, the weather system had produced 150-200 mm of rain in north Tamil Nadu. In 2000, a panel of the World Meteorological Organisation with members of the UN Economic and Social Commission prepared the list of names of tropical cyclones in the Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea, to be given from the September 2004 season.
- ✓ The name of each cyclone is picked from this list and cycles through each country's suggestion. After Michaung (by Myanmar), the next five cyclones will be called 'Remal' (Oman), 'Asna' (Pakistan), 'Dana' (Qatar), 'Fengal' (Saudi Arabia), and 'Shakhti' (Sri Lanka).

5. SAMRIDHI (Strategic Acceleration for Market, Research, Innovation & Development) was launched in which state?

- A. Maharashtra
- B. Odisha
- C. Punjab ☒
- D. Rajasthan



- ✓ The Governor of Punjab Banwarilal Purohit, inaugurated a Deeptech Startup Accelerator Program for innovation in agriculture and water technology called SAMRIDHI (Strategic Acceleration for Market, Research, Innovation & Development: A Holistic Initiative for ICPS Startups) hosted by iHub AwaDH, a Technology and Innovation Hubs set up under National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber-Physical Systems (NM-ICPS).

6. Which city is the host of the India Internet Governance Forum 2023 (IIGF-2023)?

- A. Hyderabad
- B. New Delhi ☒
- C. Bengaluru
- D. Chennai



- ✓ The third edition of the IIGF is being conducted under the overarching theme "Moving Forward - Calibrating Bharat's Digital Agenda". The India Internet Governance Forum is an initiative associated with the UN Internet Governance Forum (UN IGF). This event is being held at New Delhi. The event is an effort to focus on issues such as building a secure, trusted and resilient cyberspace for all.

7. India offered to host which edition of Conference of Parties (COP) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)?

- A. 29th
- B. 30th
- C. 32nd
- D. 33rd ☒



- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi offered to host the 33rd Conference of Parties (COP33) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in India. Speaking at the opening ceremony of high-level segment at COP 28 in UAE, PM Modi expressed his desire to host the summit in India. India has hosted the UNFCCC COP8 was held from October 23- November 1, 2002, in New Delhi.

8. 'Gajraj System', which was seen in the news, is a_____?

- A. AI- based system to diagnose elephant illness
- B. AI-based surveillance system to prevent elephant deaths ☒
- C. AI-based system to train elephants
- D. AI-based system to treat respiratory diseases in elephants



- ✓ The Indian Railways launched an AI-based surveillance system to prevent elephant deaths on railway tracks. 'Gajraj System' will be installed on 700 kilometres of route passing through forest areas. Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said forest areas in Assam, West Bengal, Odisha, Kerala, Jharkhand and some parts of Chhattisgarh and Tamil Nadu which are home to elephants, are identified. The technology, which was created by the railroads in association with a few start-ups, was implemented on a 150- kilometer section of Assam last year.

9. The world's first portable disaster hospital has been unveiled in which country?

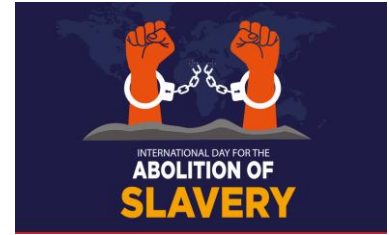
- A. China
- B. India ☒
- C. Ukraine
- D. Israel



- ✓ Developed jointly by the Union Ministry of Health, Ministry of Defence and the National Security Council, world's first portable disaster hospital, consisting of 72 aid cubes that can be deployed in mass casualty incidents was unveiled in India. Designed indigenously under Project BHISHM (Bharat Health Initiative for Sahyog, Hita and Maitri), the system is tailored to treat up to 200 casualties in areas affected by natural calamities.

10. When is 'International Day for the Abolition of Slavery' observed?

- A. December.01
- B. December.02 ☒
- C. December.03
- D. December.04



- ✓ The International Day for the Abolition of Slavery, 2 December, marks the date of the adoption of the 'United Nations Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others' by the General Assembly. On the International Day for the Abolition of Slavery, the world remembers the victims of the slave trade in the past.

11. What is the rank of India in the 2023 World Digital Competitiveness Ranking (WDCR)?

- A. 49 ☒
- B. 59
- C. 62
- D. 52



- ✓ The International Institute for Management Development unveiled its 2023 World Digital Competitiveness Ranking (WDCR). According to IMD's study, India has made significant in terms of cybersecurity knowledge but lacks on fronts like technology and future readiness. India has been ranked at 49th rank among 64 economies.

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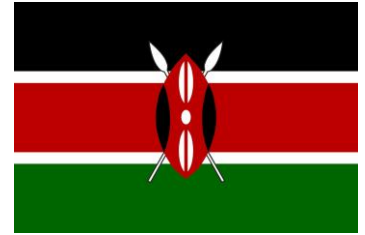
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1. India announced a USD 250 million line of credit to which country for modernisation of its agricultural sector?

- A. Kenya ☒
- B. South Africa
- C. Congo
- D. Papua New Guinea



- ✓ India announced a USD 250 million line of credit to Kenya for modernisation of its agricultural sector as Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Kenyan President William Samoei Ruto agreed to enhance bilateral ties in areas of defence, trade, energy, digital public infrastructure and healthcare. The Kenyan side offered to provide land to Indian companies and institutions for cultivation of crops, including millets.

2. What is the trend of cybercrimes and economic offences in 2022, as compared to 2021?

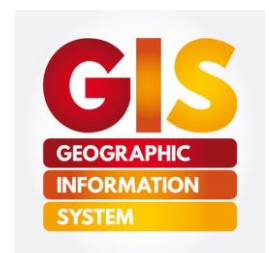
- A. Increased ☒
- B. Decreased
- C. Remained same
- D. No data



- ✓ India saw a rise of 24.4 per cent in cybercrimes registered in 2022 compared to 2021, whereas other categories of crime - including economic offences (11.1%), crimes against senior citizens (9%), against women (4%), too recorded an increase, as per the latest data released by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB).

3. 'Gram Manchitra' application, which was recently launched, is associated with_?

- A. Geographic Information System ☒
- B. Cultural Archive
- C. Educational Resources
- D. Vaccination Reminder



- ✓ In order to encourage the Spatial Planning by the Gram Panchayat, Ministry of Panchayati Raj had launched the Geographic Information System (GIS) application "Gram Manchitra".
- ✓ This application facilitates and supports Gram Panchayats to perform planning at Gram Panchayat level using geo-spatial technology. It provides a unified Geo Spatial platform to better visualize the various developmental works to be taken up across the different sectors and provide a decision support system for Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP). Ministry has launched mActionSoft, a mobile based solution to help in capturing photos with Geo-Tags (GPS Coordinates).

4. What is the expansion of PDI, launched by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj?

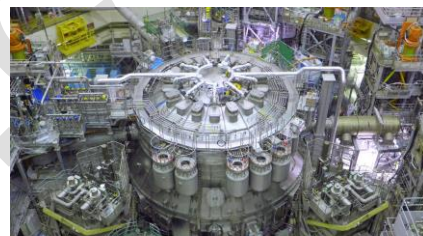
- A. Panchayat Development Index ☒
- B. Panchayat Distribution Index
- C. Panchayat Direction Index
- D. People Development Index



- ✓ To assess and measure the progress made by Grassroots level Institutions in achieving Localized SDGs and thereby attaining SDG 2030, Ministry has released a report on Panchayat Development Index (PDI). Panchayat Development Index would play a significant role for performance evaluation and progress assessment in achieving the SDGs in rural area.

5. 'JT-60SA', the world's largest and most advanced nuclear fusion reactor, is a joint initiative between the European Union and which country?

- A. India
- B. Japan ☒
- C. USA
- D. Australia



- ✓ 'JT-60SA', the world's largest and most advanced nuclear fusion reactor, started its official operations in Japan's Ibaraki Prefecture. JT-60SA is a joint initiative between the European Union and Japan. The JT-60SA reactor is a six-storey- high machine, which is kept in a hangar in Naka north of Tokyo.

6. Which technology company introduced a new AI model named 'Gemini'?

- A. Microsoft
- B. Google ☒
- C. Oracle
- D. Apple



- ✓ Google introduced Gemini as it's most capable and general model yet. The first version, Gemini 1.0, is optimized for different sizes: Ultra, Pro, and Nano. These are the first models of the Gemini era and the first realization of the vision as the company formed Google DeepMind earlier this year.

7. As per National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data, which state recorded the highest number of custodial deaths in 2022?

- A. Gujarat ☒
- B. Karnataka
- C. Andhra Pradesh
- D. Uttar Pradesh



- ✓ Gujarat has recorded the highest number of custodial deaths in 2022, according to the recently released report of the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB). Gujarat has retained this top spot for the third consecutive year in a row. According to the NCRB report, Rajasthan and Punjab, which together claimed the second spot.

8. 'TRIPS agreement', which was seen in the news, is associated with which institution?

- A. WTO ☒
- B. UNICEF
- C. IMF
- D. WEF



- ✓ India, Pakistan and South Africa, along with five others, have pushed for a five-year global patent waiver for COVID diagnostics and therapeutics. In a submission to the World Trade Organization, they said that diagnostics and therapeutics are essential tools to fight the pandemic.

9. Which organisation released the draft of a global climate agreement which presented three options to tackle fossil fuels?

- A. United Nations ☒
- B. World Economic Forum
- C. NITI Aayog
- D. International Monetary Fund



- ✓ The United Nations released the latest draft of a global climate agreement which presented three options to tackle fossil fuels. The first proposes an “orderly and just phase out of fossil fuels”.
- ✓ The second calls for faster efforts to phase out projects that lack the means to capture and store emissions, and to “rapidly” reduce fossil fuel use to achieve carbon neutrality in global energy production by 2050. The third option contained in the 24-page draft is “no text” at all, a position supported by oil giant Saudi Arabia and China.

10. Which Union Ministry launched the 'Startup Gateway for Garbage Free Cities'?

- A. Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs ☒
- B. Ministry of MSME
- C. Ministry of Finance
- D. Ministry of Corporate Affairs



- ✓ Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), rolled out the Startup Gateway for Garbage Free Cities, in collaboration with Startup Incubation and Innovation Centre (SIIC) IIT Kanpur, to call for applications for the second cohort of startups.

- ✓ This collaboration will support startups working at the nexus of technology and social innovation to solve India's waste management challenges by improving the efficiency of waste management. Under Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban, Swachhata Startup Challenge was launched in 2022 to nurture the evolving startup ecosystem from the Indian waste sector.

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1. The Central government has approved the first urban flood mitigation project for which state/UT?

- A. Tamil Nadu ☒
- B. Odisha
- C. West Bengal
- D. Andhra Pradesh



- ✓ The Central government has approved the first urban flood mitigation project of Rs 561.29 crore for 'Integrated Urban Flood Management' activities for the Chennai Basin project, as per Union Home Minister Amit Shah. This is the first in a series of urban flood mitigation efforts and will help develop a broader framework for urban flood management.

2. Aerial Delivery Research and Development Establishment (ADRDE) is a defence research laboratory under?

- A. ISRO
- B. DRDO ☒
- C. IISc Bengaluru
- D. IIT Madras



- ✓ A C-17 transport aircraft of the Indian Air Force airdropped in a military zone in Agra an indigenously developed heavy platform that can carry a maximum load of 16 tonnes. It is for the first time that a platform having a dimension of 24 feet by eight feet with 16 tonnes load capacity was airdropped from an IAF plane. An Indian Air Force C-17 airdropped an ADRDE-developed Type V Platform (24 ft), for the first time. The Aerial Delivery Research and Development Establishment (ADRDE) is a premier defence research laboratory.

3. Tiriyani Block, which secured top position in the first delta rankings of Aspirational Blocks Programme (ABP), is from which state/UT?

- A. Tamil Nadu
- B. Telangana ☒
- C. Odisha
- D. Jharkhand



NITI Aayog

- ✓ Tiriyani Block of Kumuram Bheem Asifabad district, Telangana secured the top position in the first delta rankings of Aspirational Blocks Programme (ABP) announced by NITI Aayog. The second position was bagged by Kaushambi block of Kaushambi District, Uttar Pradesh. The ranking of the blocks has been calculated on the basis of performance of blocks and progress achieved in the Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) in the month of June, 2023.

4. What is the name of the short-range ballistic missile recently launched by India?

- A. Agni-1 ☒
- B. Astra-1
- C. Avani-1
- D. Ajwa-1



- ✓ India successfully conducted the training launch of short-range ballistic missile 'Agni-1 from APJ Abdul Kalam Island, off the Odisha coast. The user training launch successfully validated all operational and technical parameters," said the official. In October last year, India successfully test-fired 'Agni Prime' - a new generation of ballistic missiles from off the coast of Odisha.

5. Which city is the host of International Food Convention, IFCON 2023?

- A. Chennai
- B. Mysuru ☒
- C. Kolkata
- D. Varanasi



- ✓ The three-day 9th International Food Convention, IFCON 2023, jointly organised by CSIR-CFTRI and Association of Food Scientists and Technologists (India) (AFSTI) will be held at Mysuru. The event, which is held once in five years, is expecting more than 3,000 delegates including students, industrialists, researchers and others taking part. While the international research and conferences are held in foreign countries, the food convention is being held in India.

6. How many countries are permanent members in the UN Security Council?

- A. 3
- B. 5 ☒
- C. 7
- D. 10

5

- ✓ UN President urged the UN Security Council President to help avert a humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza and appealed for a humanitarian ceasefire to be declared. The UNSC comprises five permanent members, the United States, the United Kingdom, France, China and Russia and 10 non-permanent members appointed for specific periods.
- ✓ On a rotational basis, each of these 15 countries holds the presidency for a month. Ecuador is the President for December 2023. Article 99 of the UN Charter is the founding document of the United Nations. Based on the powers conferred through it, the UN can take action on a wide variety of issues.

7. Which Union Ministry is associated with the 'Rubber (Promotion and Development) Bill, 2023'?

- A. Ministry of MSME
- B. Ministry of Commerce and Industry ☒
- C. Ministry of Labour and Employment
- D. Ministry of Power



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उद्योग मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF
**COMMERCE
AND INDUSTRY**

सत्यमेव जयते

- ✓ Ministry of Commerce and Industry released the revised draft Rubber (Promotion and Development) Bill, 2023, to reconstitute the Rubber Board. On a direction by the government, the Rubber Board is scheduled to hold three open house sessions, to discuss the revised draft. An earlier Bill introduced by the Union Govt-Rubber (Promotion and Development) Bill, 2022, which sought to repeal the Rubber Act of 1947-had ignited widespread protests among rubber farmers.

8. 'Santiniketan' is a university town situated in which state/UT?

- A. Puducherry
- B. West Bengal ☒
- C. Goa
- D. Odisha



- ✓ A university town in West Bengal's Birbhum district, 'Santiniketan' has recently been included in UNESCO's World Heritage List. A UNESCO recognized World Heritage Site, Santiniketan refers to the Vishvabharati established at the site by Devendranath Tagore. Santiniketan founded by Devendranath Tagore and the university founded by his son Rabindranath Tagore have got UNESCO World Heritage status.

9. 'Suchitwa Theeram' Project, which was seen in the news, was launched by which state?

- A. Jharkhand
- B. Gujarat
- C. Odisha
- D. Kerala ☒



- ✓ The Kozhikode district administration is launching 'Suchitwa Theeram', a project to keep the coastal areas of the district free of plastic and garbage. The project is being implemented under the aegis of the Department of Local Administration under the 'Malinya Muktha Navakeralam' programme. Volunteers under campuses of Kozhikode, National Service Scheme, members of Harithakarma Sena and Kudumbasree will take part in the drive.

10. '*Impatiens karuppusamyi*', which was seen in the news, belongs to which species?

- A. Fish
- B. Plant ☒
- C. Bird
- D. Spider



- ✓ The researchers of Botanical Survey of India (BSI) have discovered a new species of plant from Kalakad Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve, Tamil Nadu. The plant has been named '*Impatiens karuppusamyi*'. The species shows similarity with its alike species '*Impatiens Bicornis*', but differs from it in terms of having small leaves, six to eight flowered, short scape, and small flowers. There are more than 1000 species of '*Impatiens*' worldwide, of which more than 280 are found in India.

11. Which university is named the world's most sustainable university, as per "QS World University Rankings: Sustainability 2024"?

- A. University of Toronto ☒
- B. IISc Bengaluru
- C. IIT Madras
- D. Delhi University



UNIVERSITY OF
TORONTO
SCARBOROUGH

- ✓ The University of Toronto is named the world's most sustainable university, followed by the University of California, Berkeley (UCB) in second and the University of Manchester in third place. Ranked 220th globally, Delhi University is at the top among Indian universities in the "QS World University Rankings: Sustainability 2024", It is the only Indian entity in the top 300, as IITs from Bombay, Madras, Kharagpur and Roorkee are ranked among the top 400.

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1. 'Garba', which was included in the list of Intangible Cultural Heritage by UNESCO, is from which state?

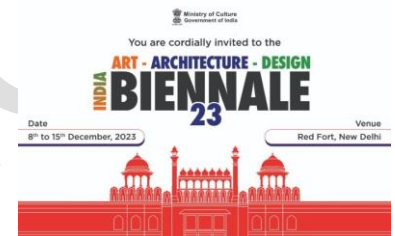
- A. Gujarat ☒
- B. Odisha
- C. West Bengal
- D. Andhra Pradesh



- ✓ Gujarat's traditional dance form 'Garba' was included in the list of Intangible Cultural Heritage by UNESCO. The popular dance form is the 15th cultural item from India to make it to UNESCO list two years after Kolkata's Durga Puja was last added to the prestigious list.

2. Which city is the host of the first Indian Art, Architecture & Design Biennale (IAADB) 2023?

- A. Chennai
- B. New Delhi ☒
- C. Mysuru
- D. Varanasi



- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the first Indian Art, Architecture & Design Biennale (IAADB) 2023 at Red Fort. During the programme, the Prime Minister also inaugurated the 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat Centre for Design' at Red Fort and the student Biennale- Samunnati. He also launched a Commemorative Stamp.

3. Which Union Ministry launched 'HaritSagar' Guidelines?

- A. Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways ☒
- B. Ministry of Jal Shakti
- C. Ministry of Power
- D. Ministry of Defence



- ✓ Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways launched "HaritSagar" Green Port Guidelines to reduce carbon intensity at all Major ports. Under these guidelines, various green interventions such as ship-to-shore power supply, electrification of Port equipment, usage of alternate fuels such as Green Hydrogen / Green Ammonia / Methanol in port crafts and refuelling of Green Hydrogen / Green Ammonia, increase share of Renewable Energy etc have been provided.

4. Which institution released the report titled 'The Global Climate 2011-2020: A Decade of Acceleration'?

- A. UNEP
- B. WMO ☒
- C. WEF
- D. IMF



- ✓ The decade from 2011-2020 was the warmest ever in history. While there has been a rise in economic losses from extreme weather and climate losses. As per the report titled 'The Global Climate 2011-2020: A Decade of Acceleration' from the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO), this was the decade with the lowest number of deaths from extreme events.

5. Jude Bellingham, who was seen in the news, plays which sports?

- A. Cricket
B. Football ☒
C. Tennis
D. Chess



- ✓ England midfielder Jude Bellingham created history, becoming the first Real Madrid player to win the Golden Boy award. Bellingham won the Kopa Trophy at the Ballon d'Or awards. The Golden Boy Award goes to the best player aged under 21 and playing in one of Europe's top five leagues.

6. Which British-Indian is the new head of the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC)?

- A. Samir Shah ☒
B. Leena Nair
C. Shantanu Narayan
D. Arvind Krishna



- ✓ Samir Shah, a British-Indian has been picked by the U.K. government to head the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) as its next chair. The India-born media executive has over 40 years of experience in TV production and journalism. The 71-year-old, was honoured with a CBE (Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire) by Queen Elizabeth II in 2019 for services to television and heritage.

7. Who has been named Time magazine's 'Athlete of the Year' for 2023?

- A. Neeraj Chopra
B. Lionel Messi ☒
C. Simone Biles
D. Tigerwoods



- ✓ Lionel Messi has been named as Times magazine's Athlete of the Year for 2023. The news comes after Messi won the 2023 Ballon d'Or for a record-extending eighth time, further elevating his status in football folklore. Messi played a key role in Argentina's victorious 2022 World Cup campaign, where he led them to the title, defeating France in the final. He was adjudged as the tournament's Best Player.

8. Which Union Ministry launched the interest equalisation scheme on rupee export credit?

- A. Ministry of Commerce and Industry ☒
- B. Ministry of MSME
- C. Ministry of External Affairs
- D. Ministry of Steel



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- ✓ The Union Cabinet has approved additional Rs 2,500 crore for the continuation of interest equalisation scheme on rupee export credit until June 30 next year. The move will help exporters from identified sectors and all MSME manufacturer exporters to avail pre and post shipment Rupee export credit at competitive rates amid global uncertainty.
- ✓ The additional outlay of Rs 2,500 crore, over and above the current outlay of Rs 9,538 crore under the scheme, is made available to bridge the funding gap to continue the scheme upto June 2024, according to a statement issued by the commerce and industry ministry.

9. Anumula Revanth has been sworn in as the Chief Minister of which state?

- A. Jharkhand
- B. Gujarat
- C. Odisha
- D. Telangana ☒



- ✓ Indian National Congress' Anumula Revanth Reddy took oath as Chief Minister of the southern Indian state of Telangana. This marked the first time the youngest state has got a chief minister from the grand old party of India. Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu took oath as the deputy Chief minister of the state. The state of Telangana was carved out from Andhra Pradesh in the year 2014.

10. The famous 'Kesavananda Bharati judgment' was delivered in which year?

- A. 1973 ☒
- B. 1976
- C. 1992
- D. 1998



- ✓ A video produced by the Supreme Court in 10 different Indian languages gives a history of the Kesavananda Bharati judgment. The historic judgment delivered on April 24, 1973 by a Supreme Court Bench of 13 judges, the largest in the court's history till date, propounded the Basic Structure doctrine. The judges, on a majority of 7:6, had declared that the Parliament cannot amend or abrogate the fundamental features or the soul of the Constitution, including the rule of law and independence of the judiciary.

11. Mefenamic acid tablet, which was seen in the news, is used as a/an?

A. Antibiotic

B. Painkiller ☒

C. Antiseptic

D. Immunosuppressant



- ✓ Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission (IPC) issued a drug safety alert for the commonly used painkiller mefenamic acid tablet. The mefenamic acid painkiller named Meftal is prescribed in the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis, osteoarthritis, dysmenorrhoea, mild to moderate pain, inflammation, fever and dental pain.

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1. Which state implements 'Maha Lakshmi scheme', aimed at providing free travel to women in buses?

- A. Telangana ☒
- B. Odisha
- C. West Bengal
- D. Andhra Pradesh



- ✓ **Telangana government has issued guidelines for the implementation of Maha Lakshmi scheme, aimed at providing free travel to women in TSRTC buses. The Maha Lakshmi scheme aims to provide free travel for girls, women of all age groups, and transgender persons in state-run Palle Velugu and express buses operated by the Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TSRTC) within the borders of Telangana State.**

2. Lalduhoma was sworn in as the Chief Minister of which state/UT?

- A. Chhattisgarh
- B. Mizoram ☒
- C. Telangana
- D. Madhya Pradesh



- ✓ **Zoram People's Movement (ZPM) leader Lalduhoma was sworn in as the Chief Minister of Mizoram. Mizoram Governor Hari Babu Kambhampati administered the oath of office and secrecy to Mr. Lalduhoma. Former Indian Police Service officer Lalduhoma's Zoram People's Movement won 27 of the State's 40 Assembly seats.**

3. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) enhanced the UPI payment limits for healthcare and education from Rs 1 lakh to _?

- A. Rs.2 lakh
- B. Rs.3 lakh
- C. Rs.5 lakh ☒
- D. Rs.10 lakh



- ✓ **Reserve Bank of India (RBI) enhanced the UPI payment limits for healthcare and education to ₹5 lakh from ₹1 lakh. The transaction limits for e-Mandates have been hiked from ₹15,000 to ₹1 lakh. This is likely to help consumers make recurring payments for mutual funds, insurance premium and credit cards.**

4. Tshering Tashi, who was seen in the news, is associated with which profession?

- A. Artist
- B. Author ☒
- C. Sports person
- D. Politician



- ✓ **Noted Bhutanese author Tshering Tashi was conferred with the Sahitya Akademi's 'Premchand Fellowship'. Mr. Tashi is a writer known for his works in the field of creative non-fiction. He has written numerous books on Bhutan and is the co-author of The Bodhisattva King, Bold Bhutan Beckons, Symbols of Bhutan, and is an independent author of works like Mysteries of the Raven Crown, Legacy of Gongzim Ugyen Dori, and Myth and Memory – Untold Stories of Bhutan.**

5. UNICEF's Generation Unlimited launched "Green Rising" initiative at COP28 in collaboration with which country?

- A. Italy
- B. India ☒
- C. UAE
- D. Australia



- ✓ **UNICEF's Generation Unlimited, in collaboration with India's Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change unveiled the "Green Rising" initiative at COP28 in Dubai. The main goal is to mobilize millions of young people worldwide, encouraging their active participation in green initiatives addressing and adapting to the severe impacts of climate change on their communities. Through the YuWaah campaign in India, the focus is on engaging youth to drive impactful environmental actions at the grassroots level, inspired by the Mission Life movement.**

6. Which is the headquarters of Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)?

- A. New York
- B. Beijing ☒
- C. Geneva
- D. Paris



- ✓ **The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to strengthen collaboration in promoting sustainable infrastructure development and address development challenges in Asia. Under the MoU, AIIB and UNDP plan to co-invest and leverage multilateral funding and private financing in developing countries.**

7. International Civil Aviation Day is observed on which date?

- A. 7 January
- B. 7 March
- C. 7 September
- D. 7 December ☒



- ✓ International Civil Aviation Day is observed on 7 December every year. The purpose of this day is to help generate and reinforce worldwide awareness of the importance of international civil aviation to the social and economic development of Countries. Every five years, the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Council establishes a special anniversary theme for International Civil Aviation Day. The Council has decided that from 2019 until 2023, the theme is: "Advancing Innovation for Global Aviation Development".

8. When is 'National Cancer Awareness Day' observed?

- A. 7 January
- B. 7 March
- C. 7 September
- D. 7 November ☒



- ✓ 'National Cancer Awareness Day' is observed in India on November 7 every year since 2014 to create public awareness about early detection, prevention, and treatment of cancer. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), cancer is the second leading cause of death worldwide, representing nearly 1 in 6 deaths globally.

9. Who has been named as the 'Person of the year 2023' by Time magazine?

- A. Volodymyr Zelensky
- B. Taylor Swift ☒
- C. Simone Biles
- D. Xi Jinping



- ✓ Time magazine named Taylor Swift as its person of the year. The singer beat out eight other finalists, including King Charles III and Barbie. Time awards the title to "the individual, group, or concept that has had the most influence on the world throughout the previous 12 months. Last year, when Russia invaded Ukraine, the magazine awarded the distinction to Volodymyr Zelensky, Ukraine's president.

10. According to IQAir, the air quality of which city was the worst in the world, as of December 2023?

- A. New Delhi
- B. Lahore ☒
- C. Dhaka
- D. Tokyo



- ✓ According to IQAir, Lahore's air quality was the worst in the world, with the air quality index (AQI) at a "hazardous" 400. Lahore, the second-largest city in Pakistan, continues to suffer from a smog crisis that has affected the health and livelihood of millions of people. The AQI is calculated based on five categories of pollution: ground-level ozone, particulate matter, carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide, and nitrogen dioxide. Last month, Lahore was followed by Delhi at 302 and Karachi at 204.

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1. Which Union Ministry is associated with 'Mera Gaon, Meri Dharohar Programme'?

- A. Ministry of Culture ☒
- B. Ministry of Home Affairs
- C. Ministry of Women & Child Development
- D. Ministry of Mines



संस्कृति मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF
CULTURE

- ✓ The Government of India has decided to map and document all villages under Mera Gaon, Meri Dharohar (MGMD) Programme. This National Mission on Cultural Mapping is conducted in coordination with Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) under the Ministry of Culture. A web portal on MGMD has also been launched. The MGMD seeks to compile comprehensive information detailing the life, history, and ethos of Indian villages and to make the same available to virtual and real-time visitors.

2. Cooum and Adyar rivers flow in which state/UT?

- A. Tamil Nadu ☒
- B. Kerala
- C. Andhra Pradesh
- D. Karnataka



- ✓ Five weather systems in the Bay of Bengal had paths similar to the recent Cyclone Michaung since 1971. Weather disturbances in 1976, 1982, 1984, 1996 and 2005 brought intense rainfall that left the Chennai city flooded with both the Cooum and Adyar rivers running through the course of the city in full flow.

3. What is India's GDP growth projection for 2023-24, as per RBI's December 2023 Monetary Policy Committee Meeting?

- A. 7% ☒
- B. 10%
- C. 5%
- D. 12%



- ✓ Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) decided to keep key interest rates unchanged at 6.5 per cent for the fifth policy meeting in a row. It also maintained its 'withdrawal of accommodation' policy stance by a five-out-of-six majority. The committee raised its GDP growth projection for 2023-24 to 7%, and retained its average inflation forecast at 5.4%.

4. Prashant Agrawal, who was seen in the news, is associated with which profession?

- A. Artist
- B. Social Worker ☒
- C. Sports person
- D. Politician



- ✓ Prashant Agrawal, President of Narayan Seva Sansthan, was honoured with the prestigious National Award for 'Best Personality- Empowerment of Differently-abled' by President Draupadi Murmu at a ceremony organised by the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities.
- ✓ Prashant Agrawal has led initiatives in establishing residential schools, and vocational rehabilitation centres, and providing assistive devices for differently-abled individuals. Rajasthan govt's acknowledgement, honouring him with the Best Social Worker Award in 2017.

5. 'Hanukkah' is a festival associated with which religion?

- A. Hinduism
- B. Judaism ☒
- C. Jainism
- D. Sikhism



- ✓ Hanukkah is Judaism's "festival of lights." On eight consecutive nightfalls, Jews gather with family and friends to light one additional candle in the menorah — a multibranched candelabra. The holiday marks the rededication of the Temple in Jerusalem in the 2nd century BC, after a small group of Jewish fighters liberated it from occupying foreign forces.

6. Which European country has withdrawn from China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) in 2023?

- A. Germany
- B. The Netherlands
- C. Italy ☒
- D. Spain



- ✓ Italy has withdrawn from China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), more than four years after becoming the only Group of Seven (G7) nation to sign up. The Belt and Road plan proposes massive investments in infrastructure such as roads, bridges and ports to recreate the ancient Silk Road trade routes linking Europe and Asia.

7. India recently celebrated its 50 years of diplomatic ties with which country, in December 2023?

- A. Republic of Korea ☒
- B. China
- C. South Africa
- D. Australia



- ✓ Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi conveyed his greetings to President of Republic of Korea, Mr. Yoon Suk Yeol on completing 50 years of establishment of diplomatic ties between India and Republic of Korea. In 1973 that India could definitively establish diplomatic relations by formally recognizing both North and South Korea. As of 2022, trade volume has soared to USD 27.8 billion. At present, major South Korean conglomerates, including Hyundai Motor, POSCO, LG Electronics and Samsung Electronics are operating in Indian market.

8. Banni grasslands, which was seen in the news, is located in which state/UT?

- A. Rajasthan
- B. Maharashtra
- C. Gujarat ☒
- D. Punjab



- ✓ The Union government has approved setting up a breeding centre for cheetahs at the Banni grasslands in Gujarat's Kutch district. The Gujarat government sent a proposal to the National Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management Authority under National CAMPA.
- ✓ Wildlife experts said that there were records of cheetah hunting in Saurashtra and Dahod until 1921, adding that several reference journals have mentioned cheetah presence in Gujarat until the early 1940s. The Gujarat government will have to set up breeding centres and introduce a prey base in this area before cheetahs are brought.

9. Which Union Ministry is associated with Unique Disability ID (UDID) project?

- A. Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment ☒
- B. Ministry of Home Affairs
- C. Ministry of Rural Development
- D. Ministry of Panchayat Raj



- ✓ Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment Dr. Virendra Kumar presented the one croreth Unique Disability Identity (UDID) card. During the event, an indigenized IQ assessment test kit was dedicated to the nation by the Union Minister. Launched in 2017, the UDID project by the Government of India aims to provide a Unique Identity to each person with disabilities in the country, creating a comprehensive database for welfare planning.

10. Which city is the host of the first ever Khelo India Para Games in 2023?

- A. New Delhi ☒
- B. Mumbai
- C. Bhubaneswar
- D. Chennai



- ✓ Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports Anurag Singh Thakur inaugurated the Khelo India Para Games 2023 in New Delhi. More than 1400 players from 32 states and Union Territories and Services Sports Board are participating in these Games between December 10 and 17 at three venues in New Delhi.
- ✓ The Competition will be held in seven para-sports which include athletics, shooting, archery, football, badminton, table tennis and weightlifting. Some of India's top international para stars like Sheetal Devi, Bhavina Patel, Ashok and others will participate in the event.

11. Ashwini Ponnappa and Tanisha Crasto, who were seen in the news, play which sports?

- A. Tennis
- B. Table Tennis
- C. Badminton ☒
- D. Volleyball



- ✓ Indian badminton players Ashwini Ponnappa and Tanisha Crasto, who joined hands in January this year, secured their third women's doubles title at the Guwahati Masters. 34-year-old Ashwini and the 20-year-old Tanisha Crasto, secured their third women's doubles title and the second Super 100 crown with the Guwahati Masters BWF Super 100 International badminton tournament.

12. Indian Financial Technology & Allied Services (IFTAS) is the subsidiary of?

- A. Reserve Bank of India ☒
- B. Ministry of Finance
- C. DPIIT
- D. FSSAI



- ✓ The RBI announced to set up a cloud facility as digital public infrastructure dedicated to the financial sector. The facility's establishment and initial operation will be undertaken by a subsidiary of RBI, the Indian Financial Technology & Allied Services (IFTAS). Subsequently, the operational responsibility will transition to an independent entity owned by participants in the financial sector. RBI has said the facility will be in the nature of IT infrastructure to improve efficiency and it is not in pursuit of data sovereignty.

13. 118 countries signed a pledge at the ongoing COP28 climate summit to triple the world's green energy capacity to 11,000 GW by which year?

- A. 2025
- B. 2030 ☒
- C. 2040
- D. 2045



- ✓ As many as 118 countries signed a renewable energy pledge at the ongoing COP28 climate summit to triple the world's green energy capacity to 11,000 GW by 2030, thereby, reducing the reliance on fossil fuels in generating energy. According to the "Global Renewables and Energy Efficiency Pledge", countries have to "double the global average annual rate of energy efficiency improvements from around 2% to over 4% every year until 2030". The pledge is neither legally binding nor a part of the official COP28 calendar.

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1. Which institution launched a comprehensive programme to combat air pollution crisis in India?

- A. Asian Development Bank
- B. World Bank ☒
- C. World Health Organisation
- D. World Trade Organisation



- ✓ In response to India's escalating air pollution crisis, the World Bank has launched a comprehensive program aimed at curbing the impact of ambient particulate matter (PM) 2.5 pollution. According to the World Bank, the initiative includes the introduction of airshed management tools, the development of State-wide Air Quality Action Plans, and the creation of the first extensive Regional Airshed Action Plan for the Indo-Gangetic Plains (IGP), covering seven union territories and states.

2. Article 370 of the Constitution, which was seen in the news, is associated with_?

- A. Special status to Jammu and Kashmir ☒
- B. Special status to Andhra Pradesh
- C. Goods and Services Tax
- D. Economically Weaker Section (EWS) Reservation



- ✓ The Supreme Court recently gave its verdict on the Union government's 2019 move to amend Article 370 of the Constitution. Article 370 of the Constitution of India provided the State of Jammu and Kashmir with a special constitutional status. The provision substantially limited Parliament's power to legislate for the State compared to other states.
- ✓ The court held the Constitutional order that revoked Article 370 as valid. The background Governor's Rule was imposed in Jammu and Kashmir in 2018, after the BJP withdrew support to the coalition government led by PDP leader Mehbooba Mufti.

3. Vishnu Deo Sai is the new Chief Minister of which Indian state?

- A. Madhya Pradesh
- B. Rajasthan
- C. Chhattisgarh ☒
- D. Mizoram



- ✓ Vishnu Deo Sai, a prominent tribal face of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), sworn in as the next Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh. Raman Singh, who has run the state government for 15 years, has been made the Speaker of the state assembly.

4. Which Asian country has recently launched its own Forest and Wood Certification Scheme?

- A. Sri Lanka
- B. India ☒
- C. Bangladesh
- D. Japan



- ✓ India's Union Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change has launched the Indian Forest & Wood Certification Scheme. This national forest certification scheme offers voluntary third-party certification designed to promote sustainable forest management and agroforestry in the country. The scheme includes forest management certification, tree outside forest management certification, and chain of custody certification. The Indian Forest and Wood Certification Scheme, will be overseen by the Indian Forest and Wood Certification Council.

5. "VINBAX-23" is a military exercise between the armies of India and which country?

- A. Malaysia
- B. Vietnam ☒
- C. Sri Lanka
- D. Iran



- ✓ The military exercise "VINBAX-23" between the Armies of India and Vietnam will take place in Hanoi, this year. It is an annual training event conducted alternatively in India and Vietnam. The aim of the exercise is to foster a collaborative partnership and promote interoperability between the two forces. Exercise VINBAX was instituted in 2018 and the first edition was conducted at Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh. Last edition was conducted at Chandimandir Military Station in 2022.

6. Which Union Ministry is implementing the 'PM Vishwakarma Scheme'?

- A. Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship ☒
- B. Ministry of Rural Development
- C. Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
- D. Ministry of Finance



- ✓ The PM Vishwakarma Scheme, launched by the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship in September, has received over 21 lakh applications in two and a half months. The scheme, aimed at supporting and providing skill-upgradation training to artisans and craftspeople. The highest number of applications had come from Karnataka (6.28 lakh), followed by West Bengal (4.04 lakh), Assam (1.83 lakh), Uttar Pradesh (1.53 lakh) and Andhra Pradesh (1.21 lakh).

7. Indian government has deferred its earlier target of reducing road accidents in the country by half from 2024 to which year?

- A. 2025
- B. 2026
- C. 2028
- D. 2030 ☒



सड़क परिवहन
एवं राजमार्ग मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF
ROAD TRANSPORT
AND HIGHWAYS

- ✓ Indian government has deferred its earlier target of reducing road accidents in the country by half six-by-six years from 2024 to 2030. Union Road transport and highway Minister Nitin Gadkari released a report titled 'Road Safety Good Practices in India' prepared by SaveLIFE Foundation, in collaboration with MoRTH and the World Bank. The country recorded a 12% increase in accidents in 2022, resulting in 53 accidents and 19 accidental deaths in the country every hour.

8. 'Climate finance for agrifood systems in sharp downward trend' report was released by?

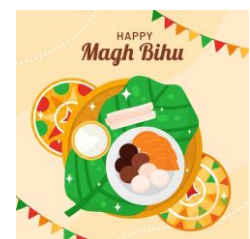
- A. Food and Agriculture Organization ☒
- B. World Bank
- C. FSSAI
- D. UNICEF



- ✓ UN's Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) released a report on 'Climate finance for agrifood systems in sharp downward trend'. The new analysis revealed the amount of climate finance flowing to agrifood systems is strikingly low and continues to diminish compared to global climate finance flows. Another FAO published in the first week of COP28, stated that agriculture was the most climate-affected sector globally.

9. 'Magh Bihu' is a harvest festival celebrated in which state?

- A. Punjab
- B. Gujarat
- C. Assam ☒
- D. Meghalaya



- ✓ Assam cabinet has given in-principle approval to the issue of detailed procedure for permitting traditional buffalo and bull fights to be organised. The Moh-juj festival is an integral part of the centuries-old Assamese cultural tradition. The Supreme Court in 2014 passed an order prohibiting all animal races and fights, thereby directing the Animal Welfare Board of India and the government to prevent infliction of unnecessary pain and suffering to animals.

10. Which UN Treaty is otherwise called as 'Bonn Convention'?

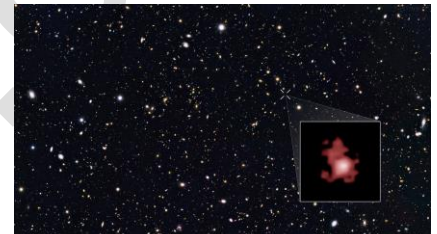
- A. Convention on Migratory Species ☒
- B. Convention on Climate Change
- C. Convention on Endangered Animals
- D. Convention on Carbon Emissions



- ✓ The Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), also known as the Bonn Convention, is an environmental treaty of the United Nations. Climate change and biodiversity loss is having catastrophic impacts on many migratory species populations, impacting their habitats, food availability and reproduction cycles. This is directly affecting the important ecosystem services they provide to humans, a new report by the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), a UN biodiversity treaty stated.

11. Which space agency has detected the oldest black hole ever observed, (as of 2023)?

- A. NASA ☒
- B. ISRO
- C. JAXA
- D. ROSCOSMOS



- ✓ Astronomers have detected the oldest black hole ever observed, with around a million times the mass of the Sun. The black hole dates back more than 13 billion years to the dawn of the universe. The observations, made by the James Webb Space Telescope (JWST), reveal it to be at the heart of a galaxy 440 million years after the big bang. The observations of the GN-z11 galaxy suggest that they were either born big or ballooned extremely rapidly early on.

12. Which institution has approved a \$250 million policy-based loan to support the development of industrial corridors in India?

- A. Asian Development Bank ☒
- B. Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank
- C. World Bank
- D. World Economic Forum



- ✓ The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a \$250 million policy-based loan to further support the development of industrial corridors in India. The initiative aims to enhance the competitiveness of the manufacturing sector, fortify national supply chains, and foster connections with regional and global value chains.

13. Narges Mohammadi, who was seen in the news, is the recipient of which award?

- A. Grammy Award
- B. Oscar Award
- C. Nobel Peace Prize ☒
- D. Booker Prize



- ✓ The children of imprisoned Iranian activist Narges Mohammadi have accepted this year's Nobel Peace Prize on her behalf. The renowned advocate for women's rights and democracy in her home country of Iran, is currently being held in the Evin prison in Tehran, the capital, serving an eight-year sentence for "spreading propaganda".

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1. What is the full form of PABS mentioned in the draft pandemic treaty discussions?

- A. Public Awareness and Behavioral Study System
- B. Pathogen Access and Benefit Sharing System ☒
- C. Pharmaceutical Advancements and Biomedical Sciences System
- D. Pathogenic Analysis and Bio Synthesis System



- ✓ **PABS stands for Pathogen Access and Benefit Sharing System. It is mentioned in Article 10 of the draft pandemic treaty, which asks member countries to establish a multilateral system for access and benefit sharing under PABS. The PABS Standard Material Transfer Agreement shall include a monetary obligation whereby 10% of vaccines and antivirals would be provided to WHO at affordable prices during a pandemic.**

2. Captain Fatima Wasim created history by becoming the first woman medical officer to be deployed at__:

- A. International Space Station
- B. Amazon Rainforest Mobile Medical Unit
- C. Siachen Glacier ☒
- D. Antarctica Expeditionary Station



- ✓ **Captain Fatima Wasim created history by becoming the first woman medical officer to be deployed at an operational post in the world's highest battlefield, the Siachen Glacier. After rigorous training at the Siachen Battle School, she was inducted to a post at Partapur sector at an altitude of 15,200 feet in the Union Territory of Ladakh.**

3. ITEC or Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation Programme is administered by which ministry?

- A. Ministry of Science and Technology
- B. Ministry of Education
- C. Ministry of External Affairs ☒
- D. Ministry of Commerce



- ✓ **The Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation Programme (ITEC) is a prominent capacity-building initiative by the Ministry of External Affairs of the Government of India. Established in 1964, ITEC is one of the longest-standing international capacity-building programs, having trained over 200,000 officials from more than 160 countries in both civilian and defense sectors.**
- ✓ **Under this programme, recently India and Taiwan have been focussing on collaboration in cutting edge tech areas like 5G, AI, information security, semiconductors etc. ITEC is administered by the Development Partnership Administration-II Division of the Ministry of External Affairs.**

4. Recently, a new species of amphipod, '*Demaorchestia alanensis*' was discovered in which state?

- A. Karnataka
- B. Odisha ☒
- C. Assam
- D. West Bengal



- ✓ Researchers from Berhampur University in Odisha discovered a new species of marine amphipod in Chilika Lake, which was named *Demaorchestia alanensis* after renowned crustacean taxonomy expert, Professor Alan Myers. The new discovery takes the number of known *Demaorchestia* species globally to six.

5. Who was SR Bommai in the famous SR Bommai judgment by Supreme Court in 1994?

- A. Owner of a Newspaper
- B. Chief Minister of a State ☒
- C. A Civil Servant
- D. A Lawyer in Supreme Court



- ✓ SR Bommai was the former Chief Minister of Karnataka, whose government was controversially dismissed in 1989 by the central government imposing President's rule in the state by invoking Article 356. Bommai had challenged this decision in courts, leading to the landmark 1994 Supreme Court judgment that ushered in safeguards for protecting rights of states against arbitrary imposition of President's rule.

6. The Payment Security Mechanism (PSM) for e-buses, that was recently in news, is a joint initiative between India and __:

- A. France
- B. Germany
- C. United States ☒
- D. Russia



- ✓ The India-US Payment Security Mechanism (PSM) for e-buses is a joint initiative between the Indian and US governments to facilitate the deployment of made-in-India electric buses. It aims to incentivize manufacturers to set up hubs in India, address the financial challenges posed by e-buses, and drive widespread adoption to decarbonize the transport sector.

7. Who is / was the first tribal Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh?

- A. Vishnu Deo Sai
- B. Ajit Jogi ☒
- C. Bhupesh Baghel
- D. Arun Sao



- ✓ **Vishnu Deo Sai is the second tribal leader from Chhattisgarh after Ajit Jogi to be appointed as the state's Chief minister. He is a five-time MLA from the Kunkuri constituency in Jashpur district, which has a large tribal population.**

8. India's first Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) project "Namo Bharat" is being constructed between __:

- A. Chennai and Madurai
- B. Delhi and Meerut ☒
- C. Mumbai and Pune
- D. Coimbatore and Bengaluru



- ✓ **India's first Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) project being constructed between Delhi and Meerut has been renamed as 'Namo Bharat' after Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Previously called the National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NCRTC), the implementing agency has also been renamed as Namo Bharat. Namo Bharat aims to significantly bring down travel time between Delhi and Meerut to around 50 minutes.**

9. Which four states constitute the Eastern Zonal Council which met recently under Home Minister Amit Shah?

- A. Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal and Odisha ☒
- B. Assam, West Bengal, Sikkim and Odisha
- C. Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya and Mizoram
- D. Jharkhand, West Bengal, Odisha and Sikkim



- ✓ **The Eastern Zonal Council comprises four states - Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal and Odisha. The 26th meeting of the council took place recently in Patna under the chairmanship of Union Home Minister Amit Shah. Chief Ministers of all member states are part of the council which meets to discuss and reach mutually agreed decisions on inter-state issues. The meeting provided an opportunity for Centre-state and inter-state consultations at the highest level on important matters of socio-economic development in eastern region.**

10. What is the name of the joint military exercise conducted between Indian and US Army Special Forces?

- A. Surya Talwar
- B. Garuda Shield
- C. Shakti
- D. Vajra Prahar ☒



- ✓ The name of the joint military exercise conducted between Indian and US Army Special Forces is "Vajra Prahar". The 14th edition of this exercise concluded in December 2023 at the Joint Training Node in Umroi, Meghalaya. It aims at sharing best practices between the special forces of both armies in areas like joint mission planning and counter-terrorism operations. The context is that such military collaborations enhance defense ties and interoperability between India and the US.

11. Who was the president of the 2023 UN Climate Change Conference COP28?

- A. Amin H. Nasser
- B. Mohsen Khojasteh Mehr
- C. Sultan Ahmed Al Jaber ☒
- D. Sheikh Nawaf Saud Al-Sabah



- ✓ Sultan Ahmed Al Jaber is an Emirati politician who is the minister of industry and advanced technology of the United Arab Emirates. He is also head of United Arab Emirates' (UAE) state-owned oil company, Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) and the president of the 2023 UN Climate Change Conference COP28.

12. Recently, the trials of vaccine PrEPVacc were stopped in Africa due to ineffectiveness. This vaccine was aimed at__:

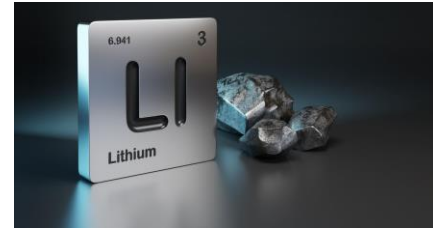
- A. Malaria
- B. HIV ☒
- C. COVID-19
- D. Cervical Cancer



- ✓ PrEPVacc stands for "Preexposure Prophylaxis Vaccine" Trial. It was an African-led clinical trial testing two HIV vaccine regimens, which was recently halted after an interim analysis found them to be ineffective in preventing infections. The stoppage of PrEPVacc is a major blow to HIV vaccine development efforts. With nearly 40 million people living with HIV globally, an effective vaccine has remained elusive despite decades of research.

13. Reserves of which mineral were found in Reasi district of Jammu and Kashmir in recent times?

- A. Iron
- B. Bauxite
- C. Mica
- D. Lithium ☒



- ✓ In February 2023, a substantial lithium reserve of 5.9 million tonnes was found in the Reasi district of Jammu and Kashmir by the Geological Survey of India (GSI). This discovery is crucial for India's efforts to reduce its reliance on imported lithium. In addition to this domestic discovery, India is also actively seeking lithium sources abroad.
- ✓ Khanij Bidesh India Ltd (KABIL), a state-owned joint venture, is nearing the final stages of securing lithium blocks in Argentina. As per recent studies, over 5.9 lakh tonnes of lithium reserves can fulfil India's entire lithium demand for EV batteries over the next 50 years domestically. This would enable self-reliance and reduce import dependency as the EV ecosystem expands.

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1. The term “Wakayama Soryu” that was recently in news, denotes __:

- A. An asteroid
- B. A fossil ☒
- C. An artwork
- D. A tradition



- ✓ The apex predator mosasaur fossil discovered in Japan’s Wakayama Prefecture has been named ‘Wakayama Soryu’ which means Blue Dragon. The nearly complete 72-million-year-old fossil was discovered by researcher Akihiro Misaki in 2006 and has recently been detailed in a study published in the Journal of Systematic Paleontology.

2. SPECS scheme is administered by which ministry?

- A. Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology ☒
- B. Ministry of Agriculture
- C. Ministry of Science & Technology
- D. Ministry of Commerce



इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स एवं
सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF
ELECTRONICS AND
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

- ✓ The government is planning to launch a revised incentive scheme, Scheme for Promotion of Manufacturing of Electronic Components and Semiconductors (SPECS), with allocation up to ₹10,000 crore. This move aims to boost electronic components and semiconductor manufacturing in alignment with the semiconductor mission to establish India as a global electronics hub.

3. Which state government recently approached the Supreme Court against capping of its borrowing limit by the Centre?

- A. Tamil Nadu
- B. Himachal Pradesh
- C. Kerala ☒
- D. Telangana



- ✓ The Kerala government approached the Supreme Court against the Centre’s decision to cap its net borrowing limit, saying it obstructs the state’s financial autonomy protected under the Constitution. Kerala has said linking debt ceiling to central government schemes and withholding due state funds severely affects its economy and population welfare.

4. Recently, the Anand Marriage Act has been implemented in Jammu & Kashmir. This act gives statutory recognition to __:

- A. Intercaste Marriage
- B. Interfaith Marriage
- C. Sikh Marriage and Wedding rituals ☒
- D. Hindu Marriage and Rituals



- ✓ The Anand Marriage Act, which provides statutory recognition and registration provisions for Sikh wedding rituals, has been implemented in Jammu & Kashmir. This fulfills a long-standing demand of the Sikh community as separate rules have now been notified for Anand marriage registration in J&K under this landmark Act.

5. Who is the treasurer of Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Trust overseeing Ram temple preparations?

- A. Mahant Nrityagopal Das
B. Govind Devagiri ☒
C. Champat Rai
D. Nripendra Mishra



- ✓ Govind Devagiri is the treasurer of Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Trust which is overseeing preparations at the under-construction Ram Temple complex in Ayodhya, Uttar Pradesh ahead of its proposed inauguration. This includes installation of idols like that of Jatayu which holds significance in Ramayana.

6. India's first Gymnosperm Garden has been established in which state?

- A. Sikkim
B. Himachal Pradesh
C. Uttarakhand ☒
D. West Bengal



- ✓ The research wing of the Uttarakhand Forest department has established India's first Gymnosperm Garden, hosting diverse endangered conifer species, spanning one hectare at Radi Top in Uttarkashi district at an elevation of 8,000 feet. It will open for public visit from March 2024.

7. The PM-DevINE scheme is a new venture of government exclusively targeted for infrastructure projects in __:

- A. 150 Most Backward Districts
B. Most Backward Tribal Areas
C. North East India ☒
D. Coastal Regions



- ✓ The PM-DevINE (Prime Minister's Development Initiative for North-East Region) scheme is a new venture of the Indian government exclusively targeted for infrastructure projects in Northeast India with a total outlay of ₹6,600 crores for the 4-year period from 2022-2023 to 2025-2026.

8. The “Hafthaa-14” roadmap, that was recently in news, is related to which country?

- A. Maldives ☒
- B. Afghanistan
- C. Iran
- D. Sri Lanka



- ✓ **Maldives has announced that it will not renew its hydrographic survey agreement with India, citing concerns about its sovereignty. The agreement, signed in 2019, allowed India to conduct studies of Maldives’ territorial waters, including reefs, lagoons, and coastlines. The decision to not renew the agreement was made as part of the “Hafthaa-14” roadmap, which aims to revoke bilateral and diplomatic agreements that could jeopardize Maldives’ sovereignty.**

9. Peace activist Ali Abu Awwad, who is one of the 2 recipients of Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament, and Development for 2023, belongs to __:

- A. Qatar
- B. Palestine ☒
- C. Bangladesh
- D. India



- ✓ **Renowned classical pianist and conductor Daniel Barenboim and Palestinian peace activist Ali Abu Awwad have been jointly awarded the prestigious Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament, and Development for 2023. The award recognizes their exceptional contributions in bringing together the youth and peoples of Israel.**
- ✓ **The Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament, and Development is a prestigious award presented annually to individuals or organizations that have made outstanding contributions to the promotion of international peace, disarmament, and development.**

10. Scientists from the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) and Bengaluru-based IDRS Labs have collaborated to develop Aktocyte tablets for the treatment of which disease?

- A. HIV
- B. COVID-19
- C. Cancer ☒
- D. Diabetes



- ✓ **Scientists from the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) and Bengaluru-based IDRS Labs have collaborated to develop Aktocyte tablets for the treatment of pelvic cancer. These tablets are designed to supplement cancer radiotherapy, functioning as a regenerative nutraceutical, immunomodulator, and antioxidant.**

- ✓ The collaboration involves experts from the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, Tata Memorial Hospital, and the Advanced Centre for Training Research and Education in Cancer, along with IDRS Labs. Aktocyte has received approval from the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), ensuring its safety and quality standards. This development revolutionizes pelvic cancer care, offering a promising solution with multifunctional properties and regulatory approval.

11. Antim Panghal plays which sports?

- A. Badminton
- B. Cricket
- C. Wrestling ☒
- D. Athletics



- ✓ Indian wrestler Antim Panghal has been named the Rising Star of the Year among women by the United World Wrestling (UWW). Competing in the 53 kg category, the 19-year-old has begun her season by winning a silver medal in the Asian Championships. She secured the Paris 2024 Olympic quota for India in the women's 53 kg category.

12. Recently, which middle east country has decided to cancel visa requirements for visitors from India?

- A. Iran ☒
- B. Iraq
- C. Syria
- D. Lebanon



- ✓ In an effort to boost tourism and attract more visitors, Iran has decided to cancel visa requirements for visitors from India. This decision follows similar actions by Malaysia, Sri Lanka, and Vietnam, who have also waived visa requirements for visitors from India.
- ✓ The 33 countries approved for Iran's visa-waiver program include India, Russia, United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Japan, Brazil, Mexico, and several others. Iran had previously implemented visa waiver programs for visitors from Turkey, Azerbaijan, Oman, China, Armenia, Lebanon, and Syria.

13. Which city was venue of ASEAN-India Millet Festival 2023?

- A. Singapore
- B. New Delhi ☒
- C. Jakarta
- D. Kuala Lumpur



- ✓ ASEAN-India Millet Festival was hosted by the Indian Mission in ASEAN in collaboration with India's Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare.

- ✓ Organized in line with the International Year of Millets 2023, the festival opening on December 14th in New Delhi aimed to increase awareness and boost the market for millets and millet-based products. It saw participation from India and ASEAN nations like Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia etc. The festival underscores India's push for greater production and consumption of nutritious and climate-resilient crops like millets.

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<https://wp.me/p7JanY-ag8>

1. Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS), that was recently in news, is related to which international organization?

- A. United Nations (UN)
- B. Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) ☒
- C. North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)
- D. Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)



- ✓ The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) conducted a joint anti-terrorism exercise to combat the use of the internet for terrorist, separatist, and extremist purposes. The exercise, hosted by India in New Delhi, aimed to improve the cooperation between SCO member states in identifying and suppressing the misuse of the internet for illicit activities. The exercise was seen as an important step towards strengthening the SCO's anti-terrorist capabilities.

2. Who has been recently awarded the prestigious Royal Society of Chemistry's Nyholm Prize for Education?

- A. Savita Ladage ☒
- B. Sanjiva Prasad
- C. Rajeswari Sridhar
- D. Pushpak Bhattacharyya



- ✓ Professor Savita Ladage from Mumbai's Homi Bhabha Centre for Science Education, Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, has been awarded the prestigious Royal Society of Chemistry's Nyholm Prize for Education in recognition of her outstanding contributions to chemistry education. In addition to the honor, Professor Ladage will receive £5,000, a medal, and a certificate as part of the prize. The Nyholm Prize is acknowledging individuals working across various levels of education.

3. Vijay Diwas, celebrated on December 16th every year, commemorates the victory of the Indian armed forces over Pakistan during the 1971 war. Who signed the instrument of surrender from Pakistan side on this day?

- A. General Tikka Khan
- B. General Ayub Khan
- C. General Yahya Khan
- D. General Amir Abdullah Khan Niazi ☒

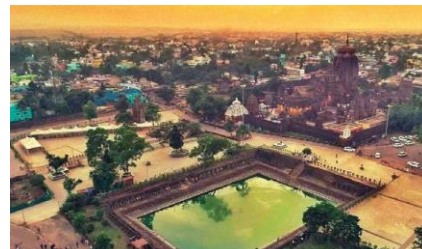


- ✓ Vijay Diwas, celebrated on December 16th every year, commemorates the victory of the Indian armed forces over Pakistan during the 1971 war. It marks the creation of Bangladesh from erstwhile East Pakistan. On this day, India pays homage to the soldiers who sacrificed their lives to defend the nation.

- ✓ General Amir Abdullah Khan Niazi, the head of Pakistan's armed forces, surrendering to the combined forces of the Indian Army and the Mukti Bahini of Bangladesh. Field Marshal Sam Manekshaw, the Chief of the Army Staff during the 1971 war, is regarded as the architect of India's victory.

4. The EKAMRA project, which was in news, is in which state?

- A. West Bengal
B. Madhya Pradesh
C. Odisha ☒
D. Karnataka



- ✓ Odisha's Chief Minister, Naveen Patnaik, prioritized temple redevelopment across the state to preserve its cultural identity. The flagship project, the Puri heritage corridor, aims to enhance the overall experience for devotees visiting the 12th century Jagannath Temple in Puri. Additionally, various places of worship, both small and large, are undergoing renovation with a budget of over Rs 4,000 crore. Odisha government has launched the Ekamra Kshetra Amenities and Monuments Revival Action (EKAMRA) project in Bhubaneswar.

5. Recently, Indian Lawyer Uma Sekhar was elected to the governing council of International Institute for the Unification of Private Law (UNIDROIT). UNIDROIT is based at which city?

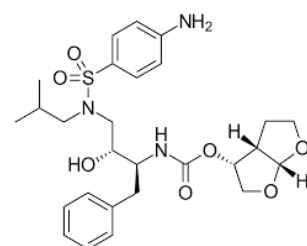
- A. Geneva
B. Paris
C. Rome ☒
D. Washington DC



- ✓ International Institute for the Unification of Private Law (UNIDROIT) is based in Rome, Italy. Uma Sekhar is an Indian lawyer who was recently elected to the governing council of UNIDROIT. She won the election to UNIDROIT's 25-member governing council, consisting of legal experts from various countries, with 45 votes out of 59. She is India's first woman candidate elected to UNIDROIT's council. UNIDROIT deals with studying and modernizing commercial and private laws across different countries and groups.

6. What is the name of the antiviral medication of the Zydus Lifesciences recently got USFDA approval for?

- A. Darunavir ☒
B. Tenofovir
C. Raltegravir
D. Dolutegravir



- ✓ Indian pharmaceutical firm Zydus Lifesciences received approval from the US Food and Drug Administration (USFDA) for Darunavir tablets used for treating HIV-1 infections. Darunavir is an antiviral medication that prevents the multiplication of the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) in the body.

7. *Austropallene halanychi*, that was found in the Ross Sea near Antarctica recently, is a species of _____?

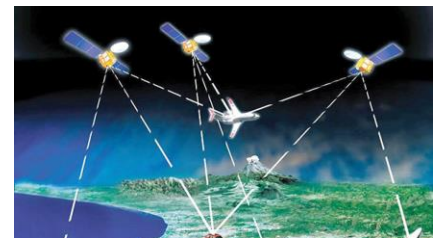
- A. Squid
B. Mantis Shrimp
C. Sea spider ☒
D. Octopus



- ✓ *Austropallene halanychi* is the name bestowed to a newly discovered pale-yellow species of sea spider found in the Ross Sea near Antarctica. It has distinct black eyes and large boxing glove-shaped claws used likely for grabbing soft prey. Over 1,000 sea spider species inhabit oceans globally but seldom before has one been spotted with such unique features.

8. What is the full form of GAGAN, the satellite-based augmentation system by DRDO?

- A. Geospatial Analysis and Geotagging Access Note
B. Gyroscopic Aviation Guidance and Navigation
C. Graphical Atmosphere Grid and Analysis Nexus
D. GPS Aided GEO Augmented Navigation ☒



- ✓ GAGAN stands for GPS Aided GEO Augmented Navigation. The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) developed this indigenous satellite-based GPS augmentation and integrity monitoring system. It provides enhanced navigational accuracy and signal reliability over India and nearby regions. The Autonomous Flying Wing, an unmanned stealth drone vehicle successfully tested by India's DRDO recently, leveraged GAGAN receivers for autonomous take-off and landing using on-board sensors.

9. What is the proposed name of India's warehousing facility in the UAE to promote exports?

- A. Bharat Hub
B. Bharat Mart ☒
C. Hindustan Depot
D. India Nook



- ✓ India plans to establish a goods showcase and distribution facility named Bharat Mart spanning over 100,000 sq meters in the UAE by 2025. Modeled on China's enterprises, it will integrate warehousing, retail and hospitality offerings under one roof in the Jebel Ali free trade zone. This aims to boost exports of Indian products to West Asia, Africa and Europe.

10. Which IIT researchers have developed new organic co-crystal systems published in Nature Communications journal recently?

- A. IIT Bombay
- B. IIT Guwahati ☒
- C. IIT Madras
- D. IIT Bengaluru



- ✓ Researchers from the Indian Institute of Technology-Guwahati (IIT-G) formulated four novel fluorescent organic co-crystal systems with diverse functional applications. Their findings got published in the esteemed Nature Communications journal. Co-crystals are multi-component structures allowing enhanced material properties. The IIT-G team engineered co-crystals that can emit light efficiently and imangible cells. This demonstrates India's rising expertise in co-crystal engineering to build innovative solutions.

11. DRDO Aeronautical Test Range that makes news frequently, is located near which city?

- A. Secunderabad
- B. Chitradurga ☒
- C. Bhubaneswar
- D. Jodhpur



- ✓ India's Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully test flew an indigenous autonomous stealth drone named Autonomous Flying Wing Technology Demonstrator from the Aeronautical Test Range in Chitradurga, Karnataka.

12. Which is the implementing agency for Indian forest and Wood Certification Scheme, that was introduced recently?

- A. Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
- B. Indian Institute of Forest Management ☒
- C. Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education
- D. Forest Survey of India



- ✓ The Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change has introduced the Indian Forest & Wood Certification Scheme. This voluntary national certification initiative aims to encourage sustainable forest management and agroforestry practices in India. The scheme encompasses forest management certification, tree outside forest management certification, and chain of custody certification. The Indian Forest and Wood Certification Council will oversee the scheme, acting as a multistakeholder advisory body. The Indian Institute of Forest Management, Bhopal, will serve as the scheme's operating agency, managing its overall implementation.

13. Kambalakonda Wildlife Sanctuary, where Eastern Ghats Nature Interpretation Centre is being opened, is located in which state?

- A. Tamil Nadu
- B. Andhra Pradesh ☒
- C. Kerala
- D. Karnataka



- ✓ The Eastern Ghats Nature Interpretation Centre is being opened in the Kambalakonda Wildlife Sanctuary. It is a forest located near Visakhapatnam, near Andhra Pradesh. The sanctuary is a tropical deciduous forest with a canopy of tree cover of mixed composition along with scrubland and meadows. It is bordered by Simhachalam hill range on the West and Gambheeram reservoir on the North-east.

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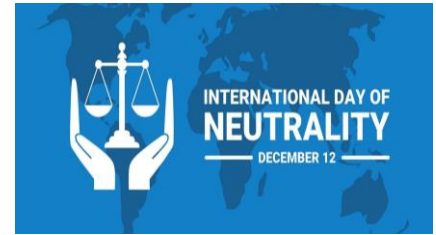
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1. International Day of Neutrality is observed annually on which date?

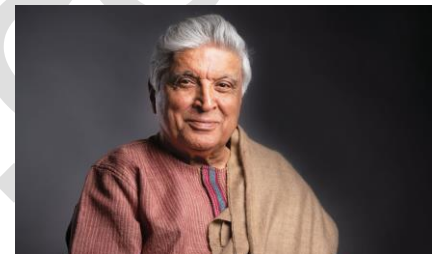
- A. December 10
- B. December 12 ☒
- C. November 21
- D. January 24



- ✓ **The International Day of Neutrality, observed annually on December 12, is a day designated by the United Nations to promote neutrality among nations worldwide. The day was officially proclaimed in 2017 by a United Nations General Assembly resolution.**

2. Who is the recipient of Padmapani Lifetime Achievement Award at the upcoming Ajanta-Ellora Film Festival – 2024?

- A. Gulzar
- B. Praseen Joshi
- C. Javed Akhtar ☒
- D. Paresh Rawal



- ✓ **Javed Akhtar, a renowned lyricist-screenwriter, will be honored with the Padmapani Lifetime Achievement Award at the upcoming Ajanta-Ellora Film Festival. Acknowledged for his substantial contributions to the Indian film industry, Akhtar is known for his work in iconic Hindi films like "Zanjeer," "Deewaar," "Sholay," "Don," "Kaala Patthar," and "Mr India." The award will be presented to him at the festival's ninth edition, during the opening day ceremony at the Rukmini Auditorium in MGM University, Chhatrapati Sambhajanagar, on January 3, 2024.**

3. In context with India-Vietnam relations, what is VINBAX?

- A. Bilateral Military Exercise ☒
- B. Cultural Exchange Programme
- C. Economic Cooperation Agreement
- D. Scientific Research Collaboration



- ✓ **Exercise VINBAX-2023 is a joint military exercise between India and Vietnam. The exercise aims to strengthen collaboration, promote interoperability, and share best practices between the two countries. It also aims to reinforce military capabilities and collaboration for peacekeeping and defense initiatives. The fourth edition of the exercise is being held in Hanoi, Vietnam, from Dec.11–21, 2023. A contingent of 45 Indian Armed Forces personnel is participating in the exercise.**

4. Annual festival 'Shar Amartala Torgya' is celebrated every year in which state?

- A. West Bengal
- B. Madhya Pradesh
- C. Arunachal Pradesh ☒
- D. Karnataka



- ✓ **Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu attended the annual Shar Amartala Torgya Festival at the Thegtse Sangye Choi Long monastery at Balem, a small hamlet at the trijunction of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam and Bhutan in West Kameng district.**

5. Which country recently hosted Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence?

- A. Japan
- B. India ☒
- C. France
- D. China



- ✓ **Recently, India has been handed over the presidency Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI) for 2022-23 by the outgoing Council Chair, France in its 3rd Annual Summit in Japan. This development comes on the heels of assuming the Presidency of the G20, a league of the world's largest economies. Tokyo is the first Asian city to host this summit. The meeting discussed these four themes: Responsible AI, Data governance, Future of work, Innovation and commercialisation.**

6. Which scheme has been launched recently to empower women in rural areas with agricultural drones?

- A. Drone Shakti Scheme
- B. Drone Didi Scheme ☒
- C. Drone Mahila Krushak Scheme
- D. Drone for Empowering Rural Women Scheme



- ✓ **NAMO Drone Didi, was launched by the Prime Minister recently during interaction with beneficiaries of central government's schemes. NAMO Drone Didi Initiative aims to supply drones to 15,000 women Self Help Groups (SHGs) to rent to farmers for agriculture purposes.**

7. Which bank has recently launched the Nari Shakti Savings Account?

- A. ICICI
- B. HDFC
- C. Bank of India ☒
- D. Indian Bank



- ✓ Bank of India (BoI) has launched savings account for women with independent income. The 'Nari Shakti Savings Account' offers personal accident insurance cover, concessional rate of interest on retail loans, discounted health insurance and wellness products and attractive rebates on locker facilities.

8. Which actor has been awarded the Order of Merit of the Italian Republic (Merito della Repubblica Italiana), the highest Italian civilian award in December 2023?

- A. Anupam Kher
B. Kabir Bedi ☒
C. Naseeruddin Shah
D. Paresh Rawal



- ✓ Kabir Bedi, a renowned actor, was awarded the "Order of Merit of the Italian Republic" (Merito della Repubblica Italiana), Italy's highest civilian honor, in a private ceremony in Mumbai in December 2023. President Mattarella of Italy praised Bedi for his significant role in enhancing India-Italy relations over the past three decades, acknowledging his popularity across generations in Italy.

9. Which country has recently launched world's first 4th Generation nuclear reactor?

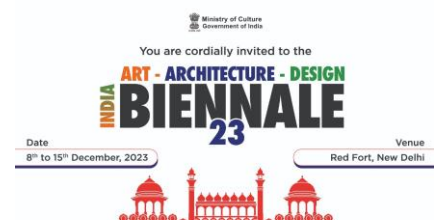
- A. USA
B. China ☒
C. Russia
D. France



- ✓ Recently, the Shidao Bay nuclear power plant in eastern Shandong province commenced commercial operations, heralding the era of next-generation gas cooled nuclear reactors. This development is crucial for China's commitment to reducing carbon emissions and securing a sustainable energy future.

10. Where was the first Indian Art, Architecture & Design Biennale 2023 held at?

- A. Hyderabad
B. Chennai
C. New Delhi ☒
D. Mumbai



- ✓ The first Indian Art, Architecture & Design Biennale (IAADB) 2023 was held from December 9–15, 2023 at the Red Fort in New Delhi. The event was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The IAADB is a cultural introduction to Delhi, and acknowledges the "invisible edges between reality and fiction, memory and design, and past and present". The event also marked the launch of the student Biennale, Samunnati, and the "Aatmanirbhar Bharat Centre for Design".

11. Koya tribe is an indigenous tribe of which state?

- A. Tamil Nadu
- B. Meghalaya
- C. Andaman & Nicobar
- D. Andhra Pradesh ☒



- ✓ The indigenous Koya tribe in Andhra Pradesh, residing in the Papikonda hill range, has embraced eco-friendly practices to conserve the Indian Bison (*Bos gaurus*). Koyas have replaced traditional Indian Bison horns with palm leaves to craft their traditional flute, Permakor.
- ✓ Permakore is a traditional flute, originally made from Indian Bison horns, and is now created using palm leaves as an eco-friendly alternative. The flute serves as a communication tool during hunting, celebrations, and festivals.

12. Which country recently inaugurated world's deepest and largest underground laboratory known as DURF?

- A. USA
- B. China ☒
- C. India
- D. Japan



- ✓ China has marked a significant achievement in physics by inaugurating the world's deepest and largest underground laboratory, known as the Deep Underground and Ultra-low Radiation Background Facility for Frontier Physics Experiments (DURF).
- ✓ Situated at a remarkable depth of 2,400 meters, DURF is a collaborative effort between Tsinghua University and Yalong River Hydropower Development Company, Ltd. The facility offers exclusive testing conditions unavailable elsewhere, aiming to contribute substantially to the global exploration of dark matter—a mysterious substance that exhibits limited interaction with light or the electromagnetic field.

13. What is AIRAWAT that is recently making news?

- A. Submarine
- B. AI supercomputer ☒
- C. 5G-enabled Drone
- D. Recently discovered Exoplanet



- ✓ AIRAWAT, stationed at the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) in Pune, India, stands as the country's swiftest and most extensive AI supercomputer, boasting a formidable

speed of 13,170 teraflops. The 61st edition of the Top 500 Global Supercomputing List positioned AIRAWAT at the 75th rank worldwide.

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<https://wp.me/p7JanY-ag8>

1. Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, who was recently on state visit to India, is Sultan and Prime Minister of which country?

- A. Qatar
- B. Oman ☒
- C. Yemen
- D. Iran



- ✓ **Sultan Haitham bin Tarik was on state visit to India from December 16, 2023. Trade between India and Oman has a history of several millenniums and archaeological excavations in Oman have unearthed evidence to show Indo-Oman trade during the Classical Age dated to circa third century BCE. Later, Oman had links with the Indians through Gujarat, and with Tamilakam along the Malabar Coast.**

2. Kashi Tamil Sangamam, that was recently inaugurated, is an initiative of which ministry?

- A. Ministry of Culture
- B. Ministry of Cooperation
- C. Ministry of Education ☒
- D. Ministry of Tourism



- ✓ **Kashi Tamil Sangamam is an initiative by the Ministry of Education, government of India aimed at celebrating the civilizational connect between Kashi (Varanasi) and Tamil Nadu. Being held from December 17-31 this year, it involves cultural groups from Tamil Nadu showcasing various art forms in Kashi.**
- ✓ **The objectives are to revive ancient bonds between the two knowledge and cultural centres, and provide a platform for exchange of literature, philosophy, spirituality, music, dance and more. 27 shops showcasing special products of both regions have also been set up.**

3. Kas Plateau, that was recently making news, is a UNESCO World Heritage Site in which country?

- A. India ☒
- B. Russia
- C. China
- D. UAE



- ✓ **Kas Plateau is a UNESCO World Heritage Site in Maharashtra. Renowned for its vibrant Kas Flower festival, the plateau features a rich tapestry of flora and fauna. Often referred to as Maharashtra's Valley of Flowers, Kaas Plateau is a place that turns into a floral wonderland during the monsoon season. It falls under the Sahyadri Sub Cluster of the Western Ghats, and it became a part of a UNESCO World Natural Heritage Site in 2012.**

4. The term "SWAMIH Investment Fund" that was recently making news, is related to which sector?

- A. Automobile
- B. Real Estate ☒
- C. Education
- D. Pharmaceutical



- ✓ The Special Window for Affordable and Mid-Income Housing (SWAMIH) Investment Fund I is a social impact fund that aims to complete stalled and stressed residential projects. It was announced by the finance minister in 2019. Recently, real estate developers' body NAREDCO recommended in its pre-budget submissions that the government allocate Rs 50,000 crore more to the SWAMIH fund.

5. What is 'Bhashini' that was recently making news?

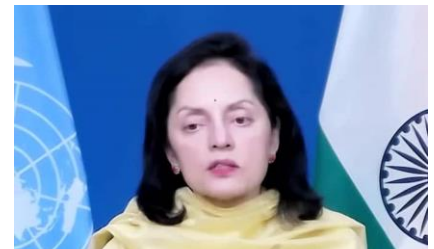
- A. Blockchain based data security system
- B. AI-led language translation system ☒
- C. Cloud computing infrastructure
- D. Virtual Reality gaming platform



- ✓ 'Bhashini' is an AI-led language translation system that enables people to speak in their own language while talking to speakers of other Indian languages.
- ✓ Its aim is to facilitate convenient internet and digital service accessibility in Indian languages, incorporating voice-based access, and fostering the generation of content in these languages. Recently, Prime Minister Narendra Modi utilized 'Bhashini' during his speech at the Kashi Tamil Sangamam event in Varanasi on December 18th.

6. Who is currently (December, 2023) India's Permanent Representative to the United Nations?

- A. Arindam Bagchi
- B. Indra Mani Pandey
- C. Ruchira Kamboj ☒
- D. K Nandini Singla



- ✓ Recently, India's Permanent Representative to the UN, Ambassador Ruchira Kamboj, addressed the UNSC Open Debate on Small Arms to highlight India's suffering from cross-border terrorism executed using smuggled weapons. A veiled critique of Pakistan, she emphasized that such illicit arms trafficking by non-state actors necessitates coordinated efforts to identify points of diversion.

7. Which city houses the world's largest diamond bourse inaugurated by PM Modi recently?

- A. Mumbai
- B. Surat ☒
- C. Baroda
- D. Pune



- ✓ Prime Minister Modi inaugurated the Surat Diamond Bourse near Surat city of Gujarat, which is deemed the global centerpiece for the international diamond trading market with over 4,500 offices across 67 lakh square feet of space. Positioned as a hub for import-export, retail and banking, this structure inside the DREAM City complex supersedes prior records for floor area dedicated to the precious stone industry.

8. What is the expanded form of the SAMAR air defense system tested by the Indian Air Force recently?

- A. Strategic Aerial Munition for Adaptive Response
- B. Surface-to-Air Missile for Assured Retaliation ☒
- C. Supersonic Airborne Missile for Assertive Repulsion
- D. Supersonic Airborne Mechanism for Advanced Repulsion



- ✓ The Indian Air Force successfully test fired the SAMAR air defense system it has indigenously developed, with SAMAR expanded as Surface-to-Air Missile for Assured Retaliation. Composed of a twin-turret missile launcher based on repurposed vintage air-to-air missile infrastructure, it is equipped to neutralize aerial threats at up to 2.5 Mach speeds.

9. Tembhuri lift irrigation project, that was making news recently, is located in which state?

- A. Goa
- B. Maharashtra ☒
- C. Karnataka
- D. Gujarat



- ✓ The Maharashtra state cabinet recently approved over Rs 7,370 crores to extend the Tembhuri lift irrigation project, under construction since 1996. Water from the Krishna River will now reach drought-prone areas spanning three districts - Sangli, Satara and Solapur, covering over 1 lakh hectares.

10. Luna Crater, that was recently in news, is located in which state?

- A. Gujarat ☒
- B. Maharashtra
- C. Odisha
- D. Karnataka



- ✓ Researchers from Kerala University have confirmed the remote area of Luna in Kutch, Gujarat as the site of a meteorite impact crater dating back approximately 6,900 years. This coincides with the thriving phase of the Indus Valley Civilization, whose prominent site Dholavira lies 200km away. With evidence of high-temperature minerals proving a young crater of 1.88km diameter, the meteor is estimated to be 200m wide.

11. Which country is leading the 10-nation military force to protect shipping in the Red Sea after attacks by Yemen's Houthi rebels?

- A. France
- B. UK
- C. United States ☒
- D. Italy



- ✓ United States announced a 10-nation military force to protect shipping in the Red Sea after attacks by Yemen's Houthi rebels on vessels with alleged Israel links forced companies to suspend operations. US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin said Bahrain, Canada, France, Italy, Seychelles, the UK would join the "multinational security initiative" against the "challenge posed by this non-state actor." The US and UK navies shot down 15 Houthi drones over the weekend.
- ✓ At least 12 shipping firms including Maersk have paused Red Sea transit over safety concerns. The attacks have rerouted global trade around Africa, imposing higher costs and delays. About 12% of world trade including 30% of containers passes through the Red Sea, which connects to the Mediterranean via the Suez Canal.

12. Which city was host to the inaugural India Strategy Conference held recently on December, 2023?

- A. Hyderabad
- B. Bengaluru ☒
- C. Chennai
- D. Mumbai



- ✓ The inaugural India Strategy Conference brought together experts to discuss opportunities and challenges shaping 21st-century industries. Aimed at fostering interactions between academia and industry to position India as a global center for strategic excellence, the conference was a collaborative initiative by IIM Bangalore, Confederation of Indian Industry CSO Forum, IIM Ahmedabad, and ISB Hyderabad.
- ✓ Key themes included sustainability, technology, digital disruption, and capitalizing on global opportunities. Discussions focused on long-term planning, sustainability commitments, waste management initiatives, adapting to new technologies, and navigating digital disruption.

13. Recently, Goa Liberation Day was observed on December 19th. For how many years, Goa remained a territory of Portugal?

- A. 298 years
- B. 325 years
- C. 395 years
- D. 461 years ☒



- ✓ December 19th, is Goa Liberation Day, which marks the day in 1961 when India's army freed Goa from 450 years of Portuguese colonial rule. Observed annually, Goa Liberation Day celebrates the official integration of Goa into the Indian Union after centuries under Portugal. On this day, India captured Goa, Daman and Diu, ending 451 years of Portuguese rule.

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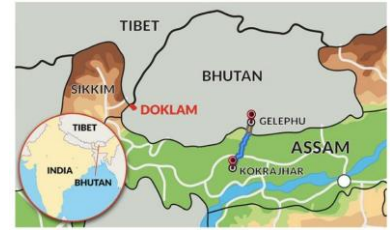
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1. The Gelephu Special Administration Region (SAR), that was recently in news, is located in which country?

- A. Nepal
- B. China
- C. Bhutan ☒
- D. India (Sikkim)



- ✓ King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck of Bhutan recently unveiled plans for the Gelephu Special Administration Region (SAR), a 1,000 sq km mega city project near the Indian border. The \$4.5 billion project aims to transform the southern border town of Gelephu into an economic hub. Positioned as a gateway between South Asia and Southeast Asia, the SAR would have its own laws and systems to attract foreign investments.

2. The terms “JN.1” and “Pirola”, that were recently making news, are related to which of the following?

- A. Artificial Intelligence Development
- B. Climate Change Initiatives
- C. COVID-19 ☒
- D. Malaria



- ✓ Indian authorities have confirmed the presence of JN.1, a new sub-variant of the Covid-19 virus, in a patient from Kerala. Designated as a genotype of the Omicron variant, the JN.1 sub-variant is closely related to the BA.2.86 strain, also called Pirola. JN.1 was initially identified in January 2023 based on genomic surveillance data from the USA and China. Its emergence highlights how the SARS-CoV-2 virus continues to evolve into new sub-variants through constant mutations.

3. Swarved Mahamandir, which is World’s Largest Meditation Centre, inaugurated recently is located which city?

- A. New Delhi
- B. Varanasi ☒
- C. Ujjain
- D. Jaipur



- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Swarved Mahamandir in Varanasi, billed as the world’s largest meditation centre. The grand seven-storey superstructure can accommodate 20,000 people for meditation at a time. Its interiors depict verses from Swarveda carved on walls, columns and ceilings.

4. Which state has recently overtaken Tamil Nadu to emerge as the second largest economy in India after Maharashtra?

- A. Karnataka
- B. Rajasthan
- C. Uttar Pradesh ☒
- D. Gujarat



- ✓ Uttar Pradesh recently overtook Tamil Nadu to become the second largest economy among Indian states after Maharashtra. As per recent data, UP accounts for nearly 9.2% share of the national GDP, behind Maharashtra's 15.7% share. Experts have credited UP's feat to the Yogi Adityanath-led government's industry friendly policies that have boosted investments.

5. Sirpur wetland, that was recently making news, is located in which state?

- A. Gujarat
- B. Madhya Pradesh ☒
- C. Odisha
- D. West Bengal



- ✓ Sirpur wetland is a Ramsar site in Indore. It was recently in news as it has got Rs 6 crore sanctioned for an interpretation centre. The district administration generated funds by selling unused government land, 25% of which will be used for Sirpur's development including building an interpretation centre costing Rs 6 crore.

6. At present (December 2023), which state accounts for highest share in total rooftop solar installation capacity in India?

- A. Tamil Nadu
- B. Gujarat ☒
- C. Maharashtra
- D. Rajasthan



- ✓ Gujarat accounts for 31% of India's total rooftop solar installation capacity, which is highest among states and UTs. According to data shared in Lok Sabha, Gujarat has 3,174 MW of rooftop solar capacity installed, which is 31% of India's 10,406 MW total as of 2023.

7. What is the name of the scheme under which Indian scientific expeditions to the Arctic and Antarctic regions are conducted?

- A. PACER ☒
- B. POLARIS
- C. ICECAP
- D. ARCTICA



- ✓ Indian scientific missions to Earth's poles - the Arctic and Antarctica - are facilitated under the Polar and Cryosphere (PACER) scheme executed by the Ministry of Earth Sciences. The PACER scheme which coordinates R&D in polar regions involving scientists across India's research institutes steers projects to expand understanding of climate change, space weather and cryosphere dynamics among other areas through these expeditions.

8. Yogmaya temple, that was recently making news, is located in which city?

- A. Varanasi
- B. Ujjain
- C. Delhi ☒
- D. Guntur



- ✓ The Yogmaya Temple, alternatively known as Jogmaya Temple, is a 19th-century Hindu temple devoted to Goddess Yogmaya, Krishna's sister. Nestled in Mehrauli, New Delhi, near the Qutb complex, the temple showcases a distinctive Hindu architectural style.

9. Which ministry has recently initiated the 'Dare to Dream' scheme in honor of the late former President Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam?

- A. Ministry of Education
- B. Ministry of Defence ☒
- C. Ministry of External Affairs
- D. Ministry of Sports



रक्षा मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF
DEFENCE

- ✓ The Dare to Dream (D2D) scheme is a contest organized by the Ministry of Defence in India, specifically by the Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO). The contest aims to encourage innovation and creativity among individual innovators and start-ups.
- ✓ The Dare to Dream Contest, initiated in memory of former President Dr APJ Abdul Kalam. Launched in 2019, the contest provides a unique opportunity for start-ups, innovators, entrepreneurs, and individuals above 18 years old to address key challenges in emerging technologies, ultimately contributing to enhancing India's defence and aerospace capabilities.

10. Recently, which company has developed "Krutrim", being promoted as India's own AI and a Multilingual Large Language model?

- A. Oyo
- B. Ola ☒
- C. PayTM
- D. ChatGPT



- ✓ Ola has unveiled Krutrim, a "Made for India" Large Language Model akin to ChatGPT. This independent AI system, tailored for 10 Indian languages, is distinct from Ola's mobility and EV ventures. The system, trained on proprietary datasets, aims to address India's linguistic diversity and cultural context.

11. During the recent Cyclone Michaung, an oil spill occurred into the Buckingham Canal and Ennore Creek in which Indian State?

- A. Tamil Nadu ☒
- B. Kerala
- C. Karnataka
- D. Andhra Pradesh



- ✓ During Cyclone Michaung, an oil spill occurred in Tamil Nadu from the Chennai Petroleum Corporation Limited (CPCL) into the Buckingham Canal and Ennore Creek. Ennore Creek, a vital buffer along the Coromandel Coast in Chennai, plays a crucial role in protecting the aquifers of the Araniyar-Kosasthalaiyar Basin from the sea. Positioned in the floodplains of three rivers on a coastline prone to disasters, Chennai relies on wetlands like Ennore Creek as natural shock absorbers during calamities.

12. International Migrants Day and Minority Rights Day are celebrated on which date every year?

- A. December 17
- B. December 18 ☒
- C. December 19
- D. December 20



- ✓ International Migrants Day is celebrated annually on December 18th. The day recognizes the contributions and challenges faced by migrants worldwide. The theme for International Migrants Day 2023 is "Promoting Safe Migration". Designated as National Minorities Rights Day, December 18 carries significant importance in India. It serves as a poignant reminder of the dedication to safeguarding the rights of religious, ethnic, racial, and linguistic minorities within the nation.

13. LEADS 2023 report has been released by which ministry?

- A. Ministry of Education
- B. Ministry of Defence
- C. NITI Aayog
- D. Ministry of Commerce and Industry ☒



- ✓ The fifth LEADS (Logistics Ease Across Different States) 2023 report, recently released by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, provides insights into the logistics performance of various states and Union Territories in India. Among the noteworthy highlights, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Chandigarh, and Gujarat are included in the 13 states and Union Territories recognized as "achievers" in the logistics index chart for 2023. It is worth mentioning that the count has decreased from 15 to 13 states this year.

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1. Which country's Armed Forces have recently been honored with the coveted 'Golden Owl' award for their outstanding performance?

- A. China
- B. Sri Lanka
- C. Singapore
- D. India ☒



- ✓ Indian Armed Forces have been honored with the coveted 'Golden Owl' award for their outstanding performance. In a remarkable display of excellence, three officers from the Indian Armed Forces, undergoing the prestigious Command and Staff Course at Defence Services Command and Staff College (DSCSC) in Sri Lanka, have been honored with the coveted 'Golden Owl' award for their outstanding performance. The award, presented by Sri Lankan President Ranil Wickremesinghe, recognizes their exceptional achievements in analytical skills, strategic thinking, and their potential for future leadership.

2. Which ministry has recently launched the National Geoscience Data Repository Portal?

- A. Ministry of Earth Sciences
- B. Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
- C. Ministry of Mines ☒
- D. Ministry of Science and Technology



खान मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF
MINES

- ✓ Ministry of Mines has launched the National Geoscience Data Repository (NGDR) Portal on 19th December 2023 in a ceremony in New Delhi. NGDR is a comprehensive online platform for accessing, sharing, and analyzing geospatial information across the nation.
- ✓ The NGDR initiative, spearheaded by the Geological Survey of India (GSI) and Bhaskaracharya Institute of Space Applications and Geoinformatics (BISAG-N) represents a significant leap forward in democratizing critical geoscience data, empowering stakeholders across industries and academia with unprecedented access to invaluable resources.

3. How many corridors are being developed under the National Industrial Corridor Development Programme (NICP)?

- A. 11 ☒
- B. 12
- C. 13
- D. 14



- ✓ The Government of India and Asian Development Bank (ADB) on 2023 Dec.15th signed a \$250 million policy-based loan that will continue support to industrial corridor development to make manufacturing more competitive, strengthen national supply chains and links with regional and

global value chains, and create more and better jobs. The National Industrial Corridor Development Programme (NICP) has been conceived to promote world-class manufacturing facilities and develop futuristic industrial cities in India.

- ✓ 11 Industrial Corridors are being developed under the programme. It is under the administrative control of the Department of Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

4. Which state is home to the Kakrapar Atomic Power Project?

- A. Karnataka
- B. Rajasthan
- C. Uttar Pradesh
- D. Gujarat ☒



- ✓ The fourth unit of the Kakrapar Atomic Power Project (KAPP-4) in Gujarat, with a capacity of 700 MWe, achieved criticality recently, marking the initiation of a controlled fission chain reaction. The Kakrapar facility, houses the largest indigenous nuclear power reactors built by the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL). These pressurized heavy water reactors (PHWRs) utilize natural uranium as fuel and heavy water as coolant and moderator.

5. Recently, scientists identified hydrogen cyanide, a vital molecule for the formation of life on Enceladus, a moon of:

- A. Jupiter
- B. Saturn ☒
- C. Mars
- D. Venus



- ✓ Scientists using data from NASA's Cassini spacecraft have discovered hydrogen cyanide, a crucial molecule for life formation, in the oceans of Saturn's icy moon Enceladus. It was published in Nature Astronomy. The research, based on Cassini's data collected between 2004 and 2017, identified hydrogen cyanide, along with methanol, ethane, and oxygen, in the plumes of water vapor erupting from Enceladus's surface.

6. NOMA has recently been included in the World Health Organization's list of neglected tropical diseases. Which body parts does this affect?

- A. Brain
- B. Face and Mouth ☒
- C. Intestine
- D. Kidney



- ✓ The World Health Organization (WHO) has recently added noma, a severe gangrenous disease affecting the mouth and face, to its list of neglected tropical diseases (NTDs). Also known as cancrum oris, noma has a staggering mortality rate of approximately 90% and is closely associated with extreme poverty, malnutrition, and inadequate access to sanitation and oral hygiene. Primarily impacting children aged 2-6 in impoverished communities.
- ✓ Historically known as the 'face of poverty,' noma was prevalent in the Western world but diminished with economic progress. Neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) constitute a diverse group of infections prevalent in low-income populations in developing regions of Africa, Asia, and the Americas. These diseases are caused by various pathogens, including viruses, bacteria, protozoa, and parasitic worms (helminths).

7. Which State has emerged as the top-performing state in the inaugural edition of Khelo India Para Games?

- A. Tamil Nadu
- B. Haryana ☒
- C. Kerala
- D. Uttar Pradesh



- ✓ The inaugural edition of the Khelo India Para Games in Delhi was officially concluded by the Union Sports Minister. Haryana emerged as the top-performing state, securing 105 medals, including 40 gold, followed by Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. The Khelo India Para Games (KIPG) is an initiative aimed at empowering para-athletes in India.

8. India conducts military exercises Al Najah, Eastern Bridge and Naseem Al Bahr with which Arab country?

- A. UAE
- B. Oman ☒
- C. Saudi Arabia
- D. Iraq



- ✓ Recently, India and Oman have adopted the India Oman Joint Vision Partnership for the Future, setting the stage for bilateral cooperation and charting pathways for future collaboration between the two countries. This Vision Document focuses on building partnerships in broadly 8 to 10 areas. These include maritime cooperation and connectivity, energy security, space, digital payments, health, tourism, hospitality, agriculture and food security.
- ✓ The Joint Military Cooperation Committee (JMCC) is the highest forum of engagement between India and Oman in the field of defence. Military Exercises: Army exercise: Al Najah; Air Force exercise: Eastern Bridge; Naval Exercise: Naseem Al Bahr.

9. Gurudwara Sis Ganj Sahib and Gurdwara Rakab Ganj Sahib in Delhi are associated with which Sikh Guru?

- A. Guru Teg Bahadur ☒
- B. Guru Nanak
- C. Guru Arjun Dev
- D. Guru Ram Das



- ✓ Recently, Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid tributes to Sikh Guru Teg Bahadur recalling his martyrdom. He was the ninth of ten Gurus of the Sikh religion and was the youngest son of Guru Hargobind. He was born to Mata Nanki and Guru Hargobind, the sixth Sikh guru, who raised an army against the Mughals and introduced the concept of warrior saints.
- ✓ His writings are housed in the sacred text, 'Guru Granth Sahib,' in the form of 116 poetic hymns. He was publicly killed in 1675 on the orders of Mughal emperor Aurangzeb in Delhi for refusing Mughal rulers and defying them. Gurudwara Sis Ganj Sahib and Gurdwara Rakab Ganj Sahib in Delhi mark the places of execution and cremation of his body.

10. The recently flagged off the Kashi Tamil Sangamam Express, a new regular train service connects Varanasi to which city in South India?

- A. Chennai
- B. Salem
- C. Madurai
- D. Kanyakumari ☒



- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi flagged off the Kashi Tamil Sangamam Express, a new regular train service connecting Kanyakumari, the southernmost tip of India, to Varanasi, the holy city in the north. He flagged off the train's inaugural run during his visit to Varanasi for the Kashi Tamil Sangamam cultural integration event. The train route passes through all major cities of Tamil Nadu over 32 hours to highlight the ancient bond between Tamil Nadu and Kashi.

11. In which region, you will find tribals practicing traditional Kumeri cultivation, that was in news recently?

- A. North East India
- B. Western Ghats ☒
- C. South India
- D. Eastern Ghats



- ✓ Terracotta artefacts were found in the Bhuipal village of the Sattari district in Goa that provide insights into the traditional kumeri farming practices followed in the region historically. Kumeri refers to slash-and-burn agriculture that involved offerings made to folk deities. Kumeri cultivation is practiced mostly by the tribal population in the hilly forested areas of western ghats particularly Goa.

12. Which country is world's biggest producer of rough diamonds as of 2023?

- A. India
- B. Russia ☒
- C. Belgium
- D. United States of America



- ✓ Russia is the world's biggest producer of rough diamonds that the G7 nations have announced a ban on imports from starting January 1st. This is part of the bloc's broader measures to limit Moscow's revenues that aid its invasion of Ukraine. The G7 also plans to introduce a system to trace the origin of diamonds by September to prevent circumvention of the ban.

13. As of 2023, which country is the top source of steel making coking coal for India?

- A. Russia
- B. China
- C. Australia ☒
- D. Germany



- ✓ Australia continues to be the leading supplier of coking coal used in steel making to India, accounting for over 13 million tonnes out of 25.6 million tonnes imported from April-August 2023. Efforts are on to ramp up domestic coal washing capacities to reduce import dependence.

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1. What is the name of the carbon tax that UK plans to implement from 2027 on imports of materials like steel and aluminum?

- A. Carbon Border Tax (CBT) ☒
- B. Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM)
- C. Global Emissions Import Levy (GEIL)
- D. Cross-Border Carbon Surcharge (CBCS)



- ✓ The carbon tax that the UK plans to levy from 2027 on imports of carbon-intensive materials is the Carbon Border Tax. It will apply to items like iron, steel, aluminum, ceramics and cement. India opposes such green border levies as non-tariff barriers. The UK is following the EU which has already rolled out its Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism.

2. Recently, Haryana has emerged victorious in the Vijay Hazare Trophy 2023-24 by defeating?

- A. Rajasthan ☒
- B. Maharashtra
- C. Punjab
- D. Gujarat



- ✓ In December 2023, the Vijay Hazare Trophy, a domestic cricket tournament in India, concluded with Haryana defeating Rajasthan in the final at Rajkot's Saurashtra Cricket Stadium. This victory marked Haryana's first title and their debut final appearance in the competition, which began in the 1993-94 season. Tamil Nadu holds the record for the most titles, having won the trophy five times.

3. International Gender Equality Prize is given by which country?

- A. Sweden
- B. Finland ☒
- C. Norway
- D. Estonia



- ✓ The International Gender Equality Prize in 2023 was awarded to the Afghan Women Skills Development Center. Prime Minister Petteri Orpo of Finland presented the €300,000 award to Mahbouba Seraj, the Center's Executive Director, in Tampere on December 11, 2023.
- ✓ The Center is recognized for its crucial work in defending women's rights and promoting gender equality in Afghanistan, particularly under challenging conditions following the Taliban's rise to power. International Gender Equality Prize is a government prize administered by the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health, Finland. Tampere has been a partner of the Prize and the host city for the award ceremony since 2017.

4. What is the name of the potato disease that has caused substantial damage to potato crops across various districts of Punjab?

- A. Downy Mildew
- B. Late Blight ☒
- C. Powdery Mildew
- D. Verticillium Wilt



- ✓ The potato disease that has ravaged crops across Punjab districts is called late blight. It displays symptoms like green circular spots on potatoes that expand into dark brown lesions. Over 50% of the state's potato cultivation has been impacted by late blight fungal infestation. Excess moisture and humidity encouraged its proliferation, resulting in rotting of tubers.

5. Whose forthcoming memoir is titled 'Four Stars of Destiny'?

- A. Admiral Karambir Singh
- B. Air Chief Marshal R K S Bhadauria
- C. General M M Naravane ☒
- D. Lieutenant General Rajendra Singh



- ✓ It is former Army Chief General M M Naravane's forthcoming memoir "Four Stars of Destiny" that mentions the armed forces were taken by surprise when the Agnipath military recruitment scheme was introduced. Gen Naravane writes he had proposed a Tour of Duty model for limited jawan intake but what came up as Agnipath applied to all new recruits in Army, Navy and Air Force, that too for only 4 years.

6. Recently, which country emerged as the winner of U-19 Asia Cup 2023?

- A. India
- B. UAE
- C. Pakistan
- D. Bangladesh ☒



- ✓ Bangladesh won the 2023 ACC Under-19 Asia Cup by defeating the United Arab Emirates (UAE) by 195 runs on December 17, 2023. This was Bangladesh's first Under-19 Asia Cup title. Shibli was named player of the tournament.

7. UN Arabic Language Day is celebrated on which date?

- A. December 16
- B. December 18 ☒
- C. December 20
- D. December 19

العربية

- ✓ World Arabic Language Day is observed on December 18th annually, established in 2010 by UNESCO to celebrate the Arabic language and cultural diversity. International Migrants Day, also on December 18th, was initiated by the UNGA in 2000 to recognize the increasing global migrant population. In India, National Minorities Rights Day is marked on December 18th to uphold the rights of various minority groups. The International Day to End Violence Against Sex Workers is commemorated on December 17th, started in 2003 to highlight violence against sex workers.

8. Chirag Chandrashekhhar Shetty, who is one of the recipients of Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award 2023, is associated with which sports?

- A. Chess
B. Badminton ☒
C. Tennis
D. Hockey



- ✓ The National Sports Awards 2023, as declared by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, are scheduled to be conferred by the President of India at Rashtrapati Bhavan on January 9, 2024. Among the recipients, badminton players Chirag Chandrashekhhar Shetty and Rankireddy Satwik Sai Raj will be honored with the Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award 2023. Additionally, 26 players are set to receive the Arjuna Award this year.

9. Recently which IIT has developed BRAHMA-2D model to understand complex flow patterns of large braided rivers like Brahmaputra?

- A. IIT Madras
B. IIT Kanpur
C. IIT Guwahati ☒
D. IIT Bengaluru



- ✓ IIT Guwahati researchers have developed an indigenous river model named BRAHMA-2D (Braided River Aid: Hydro-Morphological Analyzer) to understand complex flow patterns of large braided rivers like Brahmaputra. It combines advanced mathematical modeling with extensive field research to map 3D velocity changes from surface to riverbed. This model can provide valuable insights for design of sustainable structures like embankments, bridges etc along Brahmaputra River. It was successfully validated near Majuli island to demonstrate its practical applicability.

10. United Nations has declared 2024 as the International Year of: _____

- A. Millets
B. Pulses
C. Artificial Intelligence
D. Camelids ☒



- ✓ The United Nations has declared 2024 as the International Year of Camelids to emphasize the significant importance of camelids, such as alpacas, Bactrian camels, dromedaries, guanacos, llamas, and vicuñas, in the lives of people worldwide.
- ✓ The International Year of Camelids 2024 aims to raise awareness of their untapped potential and encourage increased investment in the camelid sector, promoting research, capacity development, and innovative practices and technologies.

11. What is Zero Trust Authentication, that was recently making news?

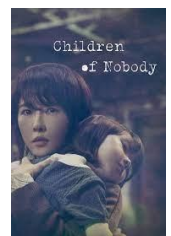
- A. A cybersecurity framework ☒
- B. A single sign-on solution
- C. A data encryption method
- D. An antivirus software



- ✓ To enhance cybersecurity, the government of India has implemented a secure e-mail system for 10,000 users across 17 ministries and departments. This system, developed by the National Informatics Centre, employs Zero Trust Authentication, including two-factor authentication with biometrics or facial recognition. It's a response to increasing cyberattacks, such as the AIIMS Delhi incident in November 2022.

12. Which film won the Golden Royal Bengal Tiger Award for Best Film at the 29th Kolkata International Film Festival?

- A. Featherweight
- B. Endless Borders
- C. Children of Nobody ☒
- D. Kantara



- ✓ 'Children of Nobody' clinched the Golden Royal Bengal Tiger Award for Best Film at the 29th Kolkata International Film Festival. Other films like 'Endless Borders' and 'Kantara' received accolades at the 54th International Film Festival of India (IFFI), with 'Kantara' making history in the Kannada film industry. Michael Douglas was honored with the Satyajit Ray Lifetime Achievement Award, and 'Panchayat Season 2' was named Best Web Series.

13. Which platform was developed by the National Health Authority for seamless transfer of medical claims data between insurers and healthcare providers?

- A. Health Data Exchange (HDX)
- B. National Health Claims Exchange (HCX) ☒
- C. Medical Insurance Transfer Protocol (MITP)
- D. Healthcare Interoperability System (HIS)



- ✓ The National Health Authority developed the National Health Claims Exchange (HCX) platform. It facilitates the secure exchange of medical claims data between insurers and healthcare providers, streamlining claim settlements and standardizing health insurance processes in the country.

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1. TEMPO (Tropospheric Emissions: Monitoring of Pollution sensor) satellite has been launched by?

- A. ISRO ☒
- B. JAXA
- C. NASA
- D. ROSCOSMOS



- ✓ **NASA's TEMPO satellite, the Tropospheric Emissions: Monitoring of Pollution sensor, is a ground breaking Earth-observation satellite in geostationary orbit designed to provide hourly measurements of pollutants over North America. TEMPO covers a vast area from Canada's oil sands to the Yucatán Peninsula. It enhancing its ability to monitor air pollution comprehensively.**

2. Under the new Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita Bill tabled in parliament, what is the proposed maximum timeframe for filing charge sheet in criminal cases?

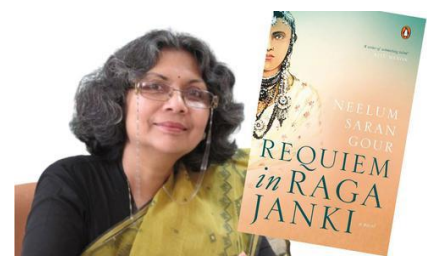
- A. 90 days
- B. 180 days ☒
- C. 270 days
- D. 365 days



- ✓ **The new Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita Bill tabled in parliament proposes that filing of charge sheet in criminal cases cannot be delayed beyond 180 days as part of provisions to speed up justice delivery. It also stipulates mandatory forensic team visits for serious offences, production of all case documents within 30 days and concludes trial in case of absent accused in 90 days.**

3. Who is the recipient of the Sahitya Akademi English award for 2023?

- A. Arundhati Subramaniam
- B. Jhumpa Lahiri
- C. Neelam Saran Gour ☒
- D. Amitav Ghosh



- ✓ **Neelam Saran Gour was honored with the Sahitya Akademi English award for 2023 for her novel 'Requiem in Raga Janki'. This historical fiction, set in British-era Allahabad, delves into the life of the renowned singer Janki Bai Ilahabadi. Arundhati Subramaniam was also a notable contender in the shortlist for her poetic memoir 'Adi Shankaracharya: Hinduism's Greatest Thinker'.**

4. What is Pantoea tagorei, that was recently making news?

- A. Fish
- B. Bacteria ☒
- C. Turtle
- D. Monkey



- ✓ Researchers from Visva-Bharati University discovered a new plant growth-promoting bacteria species which they named *Pantoea Tagorei*, in homage to Rabindranath Tagore's agricultural promotion efforts. The bacteria have unique properties that enhance soil nutrients.

5. Which ministry has launched the 'Bhoomi Rashi Portal'?

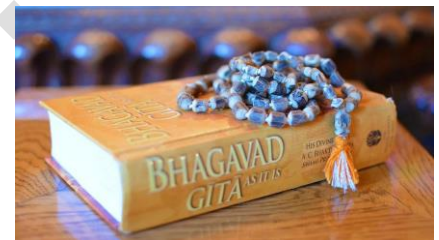
- A. Ministry of Agriculture
- B. Ministry of Rural Development
- C. Ministry of Road, Transport and Highways ☒
- D. Ministry of Finance



- ✓ Recently, 1467 projects of National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) have been brought under the Bhoomi Rashi Portal. The objective of Bhoomi Rashi portal is to provide a single point platform for online processing of land acquisition notifications to accelerate highway infrastructure development projects in India and payment of compensation for land acquisition.

6. Which state is the main state partner of the International Gita Seminar and Gita Mahotsav?

- A. Haryana ☒
- B. Uttar Pradesh
- C. Assam
- D. Madhya Pradesh



- ✓ On December 17, 2023, Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar inaugurated the International Gita Seminar and Geeta Mahotsav at Brahma Sarovar in Kurukshetra, Haryana. The theme of this year is – "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam: Srimad Bhagavad Gita and Universal Unity."
- ✓ The International Geeta Mahotsav programs are scheduled from December 7 to December 24, with the main event taking place from December 17 to December 24. Assam plays a pivotal role as the main state partner for this program.

7. Which University has won the Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Trophy 2023?

- A. Gautam Buddha University
- B. Guru Nanak Dev University ☒
- C. Delhi University
- D. Jawaharlal Nehru University



- ✓ Guru Nanak Dev University (GNDU) in Amritsar won the 2023 Maulana Abul Kalam Azad (MAKA) Trophy for the 25th time. The trophy is awarded annually by the President of India to the university with the best overall performance in sports at national, international, and inter-university competitions.

8. The first-ever World Basketball Day was celebrated on December 21 to commemorate which of the following?

- A. Dr. James Naismith ☒
- B. Michael Jordan
- C. Kareem Abdul-Jabbar
- D. Magic Johnson



- ✓ The NBA has commemorated the inaugural World Basketball Day, a global initiative established by the United Nations on August 23 during the FIBA World Cup. This day, marking the anniversary of Dr. James Naismith's introduction of basketball at the Springfield YMCA in 1891, will be observed annually on December 21.

9. Who has been awarded with the Vir Chakra 2023?

- A. Dinesh Prabhakar
- B. Benoy Roy Chowdhury ☒
- C. Yogendra Singh Yadav
- D. None of the above



- ✓ Recently late Vice-Admiral Benoy Roy Chowdhury has been awarded the Vir Chakra. He was the hero of the India-Pakistan war of 1971. In this war, Benoy Roy was posted as an engineer on INS Vikrant. 'Veer Chakra' is an award given for military bravery during wartime. Vice Admiral Dinesh Prabhakar, AVSM, NM, VSM (Retd), currently holding the position of Distinguished Chair Marine Engineering at INS Shivaji, received the 'Vir Chakra' on behalf of the Indian Navy.
- ✓ Honorary Captain Yogendra Singh Yadav was the recipient of the prestigious Param Vir Chakra award in 2022. Subedar Major (Honorary Captain) Yogendra Singh Yadav of the 18 Grenadiers Battalion (Retd) is the youngest person to win the Param Vir Chakra award.

10. Who has been recently awarded with the 2023 Leif Erikson Lunar Prize?

- A. ISRO ☒
- B. NASA
- C. JAXA
- D. ROSCOSMOS



- ✓ ISRO has been awarded the 2023 Leif Erikson Lunar Prize by the Exploration Museum in Iceland's Husavik for its successful Chandrayaan-3 mission. The award was given by the Exploration Museum in Husavik, Iceland, in honor of Norse explorer Leif Erikson. The prize has been given annually since 2015. On August 23, 2023, India became the fourth nation to achieve a successful lunar landing. Indian Ambassador Balasubramanian Shyam received the award on behalf of ISRO.

11. Which organization has been recently honoured with the 11th edition of the FICCI Water Award 2023?

- A. Ministry of Jal Shakti
- B. NTPC Kanti ☒
- C. Ministry of Mines
- D. None of the above



- ✓ In a noteworthy accomplishment, NTPC Kanti has been honored with the 11th Edition of the FICCI Water Award 2023 in the "Industrial Water Use Efficiency" category. A key factor contributing to NTPC Kanti's success is its robust wastewater treatment system, which employs cutting-edge technologies to treat wastewater in accordance with stringent quality standards.

12. Basukinath Jha, winner of Sahitya Akademi Award-2023, is a writer in which language?

- A. Hindi
- B. Maithili ☒
- C. Bhojpuri
- D. Gujarati



- ✓ On 21 December 2023, the Sahitya Akademi has announced to give the Sahitya Akademi Award for the year 2023 to Maithili language writer Basukinath Jha for his Maithili essay collection "Bodh-Sanketan". Maithili litterateur Basukinath Jha, in Maithili language, also wrote Vidyapati Kavya Lochan (Classical Criticism), Anushilan-Avabodh (Critical Research and Essay Collection), Parivaha (Modern Critical Essay Collection), Bodh Sanketan (Collection of Introductions to Books written by Various Authors).

13. Which state is the top performer among coastal states in the Logistics Ease Across Different States (LEADS) 2023 rankings?

- A. Tamil Nadu ☒
- B. Gujarat
- C. Maharashtra
- D. Andhra Pradesh



- ✓ Tamil Nadu maintained its "achiever" status within the coastal group in the Logistics Ease Across Different States (LEADS) 2023 rankings by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. LEADS, which was launched in 2018, evaluates states and union territories on three critical dimensions: Infrastructure, services, and operating and regulatory environment, encompassing both perception-based and objective indicators.

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1. Namdapha flying squirrel, that was recently in news, is endemic to which Indian State/UT?

- A. Tamil Nadu
- B. Assam
- C. Arunachal Pradesh ☒
- D. Andaman & Nicobar



- ✓ After an absence of 42 years, the Namdapha flying squirrel (*Biswamoyopterus biswasi*) has been rediscovered in Arunachal Pradesh. It is endemic to Arunachal Pradesh. Last described in 1981, the species was thought to be extinct or confused with a similar species. It is classified as Critically Endangered (CR) by the IUCN and is listed under Schedule II of the Wildlife Protection Act.

2. The queen of millets 'Raimati Ghiuria', who was making news recently, is from which state?

- A. Rajasthan
- B. Gujarat
- C. Odisha ☒
- D. Jharkhand



- ✓ Raimati Ghiuria, a tribal farmer from Odisha's Koraput district, has preserved 30 varieties of millets and trained hundreds of women in cultivating rare millets. She was invited to the G20 Summit held to commemorate the 'International Year of Millets'. At the G20 Summit she was called the 'Queen of Millet'. She has been recognized as a pioneer in native seed conservation.

3. Who has been awarded the 6th Rabindranath Tagore Literary Prize?

- A. Siddhartha Talya
- B. Twinkle Khanna
- C. Sukrita Paul ☒
- D. Ashok Nanda



- ✓ The sixth edition of the Rabindranath Tagore Literary Prize was awarded to poet-critic Sukrita Paul Kumar for her book, 'Salt & Pepper: Selected Poems'. Founded in 2018 by US-based publisher Peter Bundalo, the award is a platform for world peace, literature, art, education and human rights. The Rabindranath Tagore Literary Prize for social achievement was awarded to Nobel laureate Abhijit Banerjee for his contributions to societal welfare.

4. Which four cities are venue of the 6th edition of the Khelo India Youth Games?

- A. Chennai, Coimbatore, Madurai, Tiruchirappalli ☒
- B. Chennai, Erode, Tirunelveli, Thanjavur
- C. Salem, Chennai, Tiruchirappalli, Kanyakumari
- D. Theni, Ariyalur, Namakkal, Perambalur

- ✓ The 6th edition of the Khelo India Youth Games is scheduled from January 19 to 31, 2024. The previous 5 editions of the Youth Games have been held in Delhi, Pune, Guwahati, Panchkula and Bhopal. The upcoming edition will take place in four cities of Tamil Nadu - Chennai, Trichy, Madurai, and Coimbatore.

5. Which of the following numbers is called Hardy–Ramanujan number or most famous taxicab number?

A. 1729 ☒

B. 5436

C. 38787

D. 19083

$$1729$$
$$1^3 + 12^3 = 9^3 + 10^3$$

- ✓ National Mathematics Day is celebrated on December 22nd every year to honor the birth anniversary of Srinivasa Ramanujan, a renowned Indian mathematician. The day recognizes his contributions to the field of mathematics and aims to raise awareness about its importance. The International Day of Mathematics is celebrated on March 14th and is also known as Pi Day.
- ✓ The number 1729 is known as the Hardy–Ramanujan number after a famous visit by Hardy to see Ramanujan at a hospital. About this number, Ramanujan remarked that "it is a very interesting number; it is the smallest number expressible as the sum of two cubes in two different ways."

6. Which country is not a member of Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)?

A. Congo

B. Gabon

C. Nigeria

D. Qatar ☒



- ✓ On December 21, 2023, Angola announced it was leaving the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) after 16 years of membership. The move will reduce the number of OPEC members to 12. OPEC was established in 1960 by the five founding members Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and Venezuela. Currently, it has 13 members, including Algeria, Angola, Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Libya, Nigeria, and the United Arab Emirates. It is headquartered in Vienna, Austria. Qatar terminated its membership in 2019.

7. Church of Epiphany, that has recently secured prestigious UNESCO Asia-Pacific Award for Cultural Heritage Conservation, is located in which state?

A. Maharashtra

B. Haryana ☒

C. Goa

D. Kerala



- ✓ Three heritage projects from Punjab and Haryana, namely the Rambagh Gate & Ramparts in Amritsar, Pipal Haveli in Gurdaspur, and Church of Epiphany in Gurugram, have secured prestigious spots among the UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation. Additionally, three projects received the Award of Distinction, including the Fanling Golf Course in Hong Kong SAR, China; Dongguan Garden Residences in Yangzhou, China; and Karnikara Mandapam at Kunnamangalam Bhagawati Temple in Kerala, India.

8. As per the India Skills Report 2024, which state is the most preferred state to work?

- A. Karnataka B. Telangana
C. Kerala ☒ D. Gujarat



- ✓ Wheebox, in collaboration with several entities including the All-India Council for Technical Education, Confederation of Indian Industry, and Association of Indian Universities, has unveiled the India Skills Report. As indicated by the India Skills Report 2024, employability in India has shown improvement, with 51.25% of evaluated young individuals deemed employable possessing the necessary skills. Kerala has emerged as the top choice among states for employment, securing the second position in overall employability.

9. What was the theme for the National Farmer's Day 2023?

- A. Delivering Smart Solutions for Sustainable Food Security and Resilience ☒
B. Without Farmers, No Country can Progress
C. Accelerating Agricultural Development through Value Chain Addition
D. None of them



- ✓ National Farmers Day, also known as Kisan Diwas, is celebrated in India on December 23rd. The day recognizes the contributions of farmers to the country's socio-economic fabric. It also honors the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Chaudhary Charan Singh. The theme for National Farmers Day 2023 was "Delivering Smart Solutions for Sustainable Food Security and Resilience".

10. In India, the black tigers or melanistic tigers, that were recently in news are found exclusively in which tiger reserve?

- A. Manas Tiger Reserve
B. Ranthambore Tiger Reserve
C. Similipal Tiger Reserve ☒
D. Sunderban Tiger Reserve



- ✓ As per 2022 government data, India currently has a population of 10 rare black tigers, also called melanistic tigers, all exclusively found in the Similipal Tiger Reserve (STR) in Odisha. Genetically distinct, this isolated tiger group faces risks requiring specific conservation focus as per the environment ministry. Their dark pigmentation makes them distinct from the iconic yellow and orange Bengal tigers.

11. Who is the chief guest for India's 2024 Republic Day celebration?

- A. Abdel Fattah el-Sisi
- B. Rishi Sunak
- C. Emmanuel Macron ☒
- D. Joe Biden



- ✓ **French President Emmanuel Macron will be the chief guest at the Republic Day celebrations on January 26, the sixth time that a French leader will attend the celebrations as chief guest since 1976. Modi was the guest of honour at the Bastille Day or French national day parade held in Paris on July 14.**

12. Which international organization has recently launched Project PRAYAS?

- A. International Red Cross Society
- B. International Rescue Committee
- C. International Organization for Migration ☒
- D. International Monetary Fund



- ✓ **The International Organization for Migration (IOM) and India's Ministry of External Affairs have jointly launched a new initiative called Project Prayas. This project aims to promote safe and orderly migration for Indian youth and skilled professionals looking to study or work abroad.**

13. Which organization has received the 2023 National Energy Conservation Award?

- A. NTPC Ltd
- B. TATA Power Solar
- C. Crompton Greaves Consumer Electricals Ltd ☒
- D. Havells India Ltd



- ✓ **Crompton Greaves Consumer Electricals Ltd. (CGCEL) received the 2023 National Energy Conservation Award from President Droupadi Murmu. Sachin Phartiyal, the company's Business Head, accepted the award. The Bureau of Energy Efficiency organized the 2023 National Energy Conservation Awards as part of National Energy Conservation Day (December 14).**

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1. Talaeieh and Nasir cruise missiles were recently unveiled by which country?

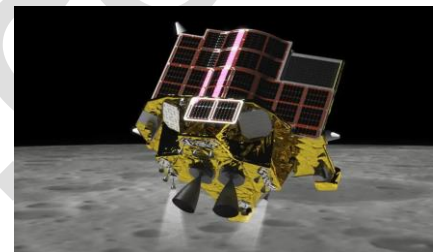
- A. UAE
- B. Turkey
- C. Iran ☒
- D. Iraq



- ✓ Iran's navy recently added two domestically produced sophisticated cruise missiles named Talaeieh and Nasir to its arsenal. As part of boosting its defence capabilities, Iran announced addition of advanced Talaeieh and Nasir cruise missiles, with ranges over 1000 km and 100 km respectively, to its naval forces.

2. Which country recently sent the Smart Lander for Investigating the Moon (SLIM)?

- A. USA
- B. Russia
- C. China
- D. Japan ☒



- ✓ SLIM (Smart Lander for Investigating the Moon) is a tiny Japanese probe, sent by the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) to demonstrate precise landing on the lunar surface. This will be a historic achievement making Japan the fifth nation after the US, Russia, China and India to softly land a probe on the moon.

3. According to Wildlife Protection Society of India (WPSI), which state led in tiger deaths in 2023?

- A. Rajasthan
- B. Madhya Pradesh
- C. Maharashtra ☒
- D. Bihar



- ✓ According to Wildlife Protection Society of India (WPSI), India lost a record 204 tigers from January 1 to December 25, 2023. This is said to be the highest tiger mortality in a decade. Within India, Maharashtra topped the list with 52 tiger deaths this year, followed by Madhya Pradesh with 45 deaths. The tiger population had grown from 2,967 in 2018 to 3,167 in 2022 across India.

4. The recently launched My iGOT and VIKAS are related to which Government initiative?

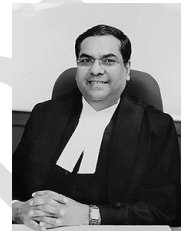
- A. Digital India
- B. Skill India Mission
- C. Mission Karmayogi ☒
- D. Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA)



- ✓ **Mission Karmayogi**, the government's capacity building scheme for civil servants was extended with new features. Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh launched My iGOT, Blended Programs and Curated Programs on the digital iGOT Karmayogi platform. Blended Programs integrate offline and online learning components. VIKAS is a blended course on developing functional, behavioral and technological competencies among mid-level civil servants. The extensions aim to groom civil servants to be more innovative, progressive and technology-enabled.

5. Who has been nominated by the President as the new Executive Chairperson of NALSA recently?

- A. Justice Sanjiv Khanna ☒
- B. Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul
- C. Justice DY Chandrachud
- D. Justice Uday Umesh Lalit



- ✓ **President Droupadi Murmu** has nominated Justice Sanjiv Khanna of the Supreme Court as the new Executive Chairperson of the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA). As per convention, the second senior-most judge of the Supreme Court occupies this post tasked with providing free legal services to the poor and marginalized. Justice Khanna, the apex court's senior-most puisne judge, takes over from Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul who demitted office on December 25 upon retirement.

6. BRI 1335-0417, that was recently in news, is a __:

- A. Magnetar
- B. Galaxy ☒
- C. Black Hole
- D. Exoplanet



- ✓ **BRI 1335-0417** is the name of the galaxy showing a spiral structure in its early developing phase, located over 12 billion light years from Earth. Researchers compare its rotating disc comprising stars, gas and dust to ripples formed when a stone is thrown into a pond. Study of this exceptionally distant spiral aims to advance comprehension of mechanisms driving rapid star formation in early cosmic epochs.

7. Who has won the women's singles title at the National Badminton championship 2023 held recently in Guwahati?

- A. Jwala Gutta
- B. Ashwini Ponnappa
- C. Anmol Kharb ☒
- D. Unnati Hudda



- ✓ **In Badminton**, Anmol Kharb has won the women's singles title at the Yonex-Sunrise 85th Senior National Badminton Championships 2023 in Guwahati.

8. Recently, World Health Organization (WHO) has prequalified the R21/Matrix-M vaccine to prevent which disease?

- A. Malaria ☒ B. Measles
C. Meningitis D. Monkeypox



- ✓ The World Health Organization has prequalified the R21/Matrix-M malaria vaccine, enabling broader global access. In October 2023, WHO recommended the vaccine's use in children based on expert advice. Prequalification facilitates procurement by UNICEF and funding from Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance. This is the second WHO-prequalified malaria vaccine after RTS,S/AS01 obtained prequalification status in July 2022. The new vaccine aims to prevent malaria in children, a key step in malaria control efforts.

9. Which newspaper was established by Pt Madan Mohan Malaviya, whose birth anniversary was observed recently on December 25?

- A. Anand Bazar Patrika
B. Dainik Hindustan
C. The Leader ☒
D. Daily Herald



- ✓ Madan Mohan Malaviya (1861–1946) was an Indian scholar, educational reformer, and politician, significant in the independence movement. He was a four-time president of the Indian National Congress and founded the Akhil Bharat Hindu Mahasabha.
- ✓ Known as Pandit and Mahamana, Malaviya co-founded Banaras Hindu University (BHU) in 1916, Asia's largest residential university. He served as BHU's vice chancellor from 1919 to 1938. A founder of The Bharat Scouts and Guides, he also established The Leader newspaper in 1919 and chaired Hindustan Times (1924-1946). He launched Hindustan Dainik in 1936. Malaviya received the Bharat Ratna posthumously in 2014.

10. What is the name of India's first homegrown mRNA vaccine for COVID-19?

- A. VIRASHIELD
B. OMIVAC
C. GEMCOVAC ☒
D. COVIGUARD



- ✓ Indian biotech company Gennova Biopharmaceuticals has developed the nation's first Omicron-specific mRNA COVID-19 vaccine named GEMCOVAC as a booster dose. As new variants like XBB and JN.1 emerge, India has approved its first homegrown mRNA vaccine GEMCOVAC targeting Omicron variant. Its efficacy against such strains strengthens India's vaccine security.

11. What is the name of the nuclear power plant where India and Russia signed agreements related to construction of its future power units?

- A. Kaiga Nuclear Power Plant
- B. Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant ☒
- C. Kalpakkam Nuclear Power Plant
- D. Narora Atomic Power Station



- ✓ India and Russia signed agreements pertaining to the future units of the Kudankulam nuclear power plant in Tamil Nadu. Kudankulam nuclear plant is being built with technical assistance of Russia and new agreements were signed during External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar's visit to Moscow. This nuclear project has strategic importance for India's energy security.

12. Devanahalli heritage railway station, that was in news recently, is located in which state?

- A. Goa
- B. Karnataka ☒
- C. Maharashtra
- D. Andhra Pradesh



- ✓ Karnataka has chosen stations like Doddajala, Devanahalli, Avatihalli and Nandi Halt on century-old Bangalore-Chikkaballapur-Kolar light rail section for restoration and preservation as heritage sites. These stations on line inaugurated in early 1900s showcase architectural history and restoration will highlight natural beauty, culture and traditions for tourism.

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1. Which Indian ministry is responsible for administering the FAME India Scheme?

- A. Ministry of Finance
- B. Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
- C. Ministry of AYUSH
- D. Ministry of Heavy Industries ☒



भारी उद्योग मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF
HEAVY INDUSTRIES

- ✓ **The Ministry of Heavy Industries administers the Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Hybrid & Electric Vehicles in India (FAME India) Scheme. Instituted in 2015, this scheme aims to encourage the adoption of electric and hybrid vehicles in the country. The ongoing implementation of FAME India Scheme Phase-II by the Ministry of Heavy Industries spans a five-year period starting from April 1, 2019, with a total budgetary allocation of Rs. 10,000 crores. The initial phase, FAME I, provided purchase incentives across all electric vehicle categories. The subsidy under FAME-2 for electric vehicles is scheduled to conclude on March 31, 2024.**

2. Which player recently clinched the Chennai Grand Masters 2023 title?

- A. Dommaraju Gukesh ☒
- B. Rameshbabu Praggnanandhaa
- C. Vidit Santosh Gujrathi
- D. Sandipan Chanda



- ✓ **In Chennai Grand Masters 2023 tournament, Indian chess prodigy, Dommaraju Gukesh clinched the title by holding compatriot Pentala Harikrishna for a draw. Meanwhile, Arjun Erigaisi secured the second spot.**

3. India's first Himalayan Air Safari was recently launched from which Indian state?

- A. Himachal Pradesh
- B. Uttarakhand ☒
- C. Ladakh
- D. Jammu & Kashmir



- ✓ **On December 16, 2023, the country's first Himalayan Air Safari was launched from Uttarakhand. Uttarakhand has become the first state in the country to start Gyrocopter Adventure.**

4. Pong Dam, a Ramsar Site, that was in news recently, is situated on which river?

- A. Ravi
- B. Beas ☒
- C. Sutlej
- D. Narmada



- ✓ The Union Ministry of Environment and Forest recently issued a draft notification declaring a one-kilometre area from the boundaries of the Pong Dam Wildlife Sanctuary in Kangra district as an eco-sensitive zone. Pong Dam Lake (also known as Maharana Pratap Sagar) is a manmade reservoir formed due to the construction of Pong Dam on the Beas River in the wetland zone of Shivalik Hills. In 1983, the entire reservoir was declared a Wildlife Sanctuary by the Himachal Pradesh government. Pong Dam Lake was declared a Ramsar Site in November 2002.

5. The recently launched "SUPACE" is related to ___?

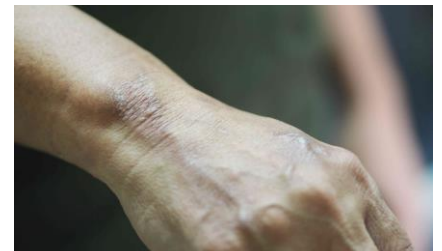
- A. Parliament of India
B. Supreme Court of India ☒
C. Indian Air Force
D. Environment of India



- ✓ 'SUPACE', the Supreme Court Portal for Assistance in Court's Efficiency, is an Artificial Intelligence (AI) tool created to gather pertinent facts and laws, presenting them to judges for easier research. It functions as a support system to alleviate the workload of judges by streamlining the research process. It is important to note that SUPACE is not intended to make decisions; rather, its purpose is to process facts and provide judges with valuable information to aid in decision-making.

6. Nikusth 2.0, the portal that was recently making news, is related to which disease?

- A. Tuberculosis
B. Diabetes
C. Cancer
D. Leprosy ☒



- ✓ Leprosy, also referred to as Hansen's disease, is caused by Mycobacterium leprae. This condition impacts the skin, peripheral nerves, mucosal surfaces of the upper respiratory tract, and the eyes. Occurring across all age groups, leprosy is treatable. The transmission of leprosy occurs through droplets from the nose and mouth during close and frequent contact with untreated cases. India achieved the status of "Leprosy Eliminated" in 2005. Nikusth 2.0 serves as an integrated portal for leprosy case management under the National Leprosy Eradication Programme (NLEP).

7. What is the maximum penalty stipulated in the new Indian telecom law for unsolicited messaging to users?

- A. Rs 25,000
B. Rs 50,000 ☒
C. Rs 2,00,000
D. Rs 3,00,000



- ✓ The new telecom law passed by the Indian parliament specifies a penalty of Rs 50,000 for sending unsolicited messages to users. For repeat offenders of such spam messaging, the law provides for suspension of their telecom network. This provision to curb pesky messages and calls was included in the law to address rising complaints of telemarketers disturbing subscribers despite do-not-disturb preferences.

8. From which country, India recently imported crude oil by paying in Indian Rupee under rupee-dirham trade agreement?

- A. Saudi Arabia
B. United Arab Emirates ☒
C. Qatar
D. Oman



- ✓ India made its first ever payment for crude oil import from the UAE in Indian rupees instead of US dollars. This was part of a rupee-dirham trade agreement signed between the two countries in July 2022. The payment was made by Indian Oil Corporation to Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) for purchase of 1 million barrels of UAE crude.

9. North Eastern Institute of Ayurveda and Folk Medicine Research (NEIAFMR) is located in which state?

- A. Assam
B. Arunachal Pradesh ☒
C. Sikkim
D. Tripura



- ✓ It is located in Pasighat, Arunachal Pradesh. On his Arunachal Pradesh visit, Ayush Minister Sarbananda Sonowal said the government is committed to develop NEIAFMR as the national hub of folk medicine. Additional Rs 53 crore infrastructure will help build its capacity towards research on Ayurveda and folk medicine and enable introducing quality Ayurveda education.

10. Which city is the host of 2024 BRICS summit?

- A. Kazan, Russia ☒
B. Sao Paulo, Brazil
C. Shanghai, China
D. Johannesburg, South Africa



- ✓ The 2024 BRICS Summit will be held in Kazan, Russia. Russian President Vladimir Putin signed a decree on April 3, 2023 to hold the summit in the city. As per recent statement of Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, BRICS summit is set to take place in Kazan in October 2024. He said about 30 countries wish to have partner ties with BRICS.

11. Coral reefs occupy what percentage of the ocean floor?

- A. Less than 0.1% ☒
- B. Around 1%
- C. Around 1.5%
- D. Around 2.5%



- ✓ As per reports, coral reefs occupy less than 0.1% of the total ocean floor area but support around 25% of all known marine species at some stage, hence critical for marine biodiversity. This highlights their huge ecological significance disproportionate to size. Climate change poses significant risk to their survival. Coral Vita is a Dubai startup attempting to restore coral reefs by growing heat-resistant corals in a land-based lab to be eventually transplanted back to sea.

12. With reference to astronomical bodies in news, what is Apophis?

- A. Galaxy
- B. Asteroid ☒
- C. Exoplanet
- D. Moon



- ✓ NASA is sending a returned spacecraft to study the asteroid Apophis, which will have an extremely close flyby of Earth in 2029. Apophis has been dubbed the "God of Chaos" asteroid after the ancient Egyptian deity representing disorder and chaos. The spacecraft will observe how the asteroid's orbit and physical surface changes due to Earth's gravity during the close encounter.

13. By what name, Vijayakanth, founder of Desiya Murpokku Dravida Kazhagam (DMDK), who passed away recently was affectionately known?

- A. Thalaivaa
- B. Thalpathy
- C. Captain ☒
- D. Puratchi Thilagam



- ✓ Vijayakant, founder of Desiya Murpokku Dravida Kazhagam (DMDK) party in Tamil Nadu, passed away on December 28th 2023 at age 71. Known affectionately as "Captain" after playing the title role in hit film "Captain Prabakaran", he entered politics in 2006.
- ✓ Rattling stalwarts Jayalalithaa and Karunanidhi, Vijayakant emerged as a surprise third force by securing 8.38% votes in 2006 state elections as an independent. His vote shares later crossed 10% in 2009 parliamentary polls. Allying with AIADMK in 2011, DMDK became second largest party in Assembly, making Vijayakant Leader of Opposition with 29 MLAs. However, in later years his political fortunes declined after falling out with AIADMK.

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1. Which sport is being introduced in the 2024 Khelo India Youth Games for the first time?

- A. Squash ☒
- B. Canoeing
- C. Kayaking
- D. Canoe Slalom



- ✓ **The 6th Khelo India Youth Games will be held from 19 to 31 January 2024 in Tamilnadu. It will be organised in Chennai, Tiruchirappalli, Madurai and Coimbatore. For the first time, Squash will be included in these games.**

2. Veer Bal Diwas is observed on 26th December every year to commemorate the martyrdom of the four sons of which Sikh Guru?

- A. Guru Teg Bahadur
- B. Guru Ram Das
- C. Guru Gobind Singh ☒
- D. Guru Arjan



- ✓ **Veer Bal Diwas is observed on 26th December every year to commemorate the martyrdom of the four sons of Guru Gobind Singh the tenth and last Sikh guru. The four sons were named Zorawar Singh, Fateh Singh, Jai Singh and Kulwant Singh who fought against the Mughal emperor Aurangzeb and his army.**

3. Amnya Fort, that was recently making news, is located in which region?

- A. Sahara
- B. Golan Heights
- C. Siberia ☒
- D. Alaska



- ✓ **The Amnya fort along the Amnya River in western Siberia consists of pit-house depressions with earthen walls and wooden palisades, suggesting advanced agricultural & defensive capabilities.**

4. Who was the first Indian Prime Minister to visit Israel?

- A. Narendra Modi ☒
- B. Jawaharlal Nehru
- C. Atal Bihari Vajpayee
- D. Manmohan Singh



- ✓ India and Israel established diplomatic ties in 1947, based on religious criteria. India officially recognized Israel in 1950. Full diplomatic relations were established in 1992. LK Advani was the first Indian minister to visit Israel in 2000. In 2003, Ariel Sharon became the first Israeli Prime Minister to visit India. Narendra Modi became the first Indian PM to visit Israel in 2017.

5. Tansen Samaroh is celebrated every year in December at which city?

- A. Lucknow
B. Gwalior ☒
C. Delhi
D. Ajmer



- ✓ Around 1,300 tabla players who performed during Tansen Samaroh entered the Guinness World Records for achieving the "largest tabla ensemble". Tansen Samaroh is celebrated every year in the month of December in Gwalior district of Madhya Pradesh.

6. "6X6X6 strategy", which is often seen in news is related to __:

- A. To make better use of daylight
B. To reduce the prevalence of anaemia ☒
C. To provide free and compulsory education
D. None of the above



- ✓ In 2018, the Government of India launched the Anaemia Mukta Bharat (AMB) strategy to reduce prevalence of anaemia in women, children and adolescents through life cycle approach. The 6X6X6 strategy aims to reduce anaemia among six beneficiaries age groups through implementation of six interventions and six institutional mechanisms.

7. Every year, on which date, "International Day of Epidemic Preparedness" is observed?

- A. December 27 ☒
B. December 28
C. December 29
D. December 30



- ✓ International Epidemic Preparedness Day is observed every year on 27 December. The first International Day of Epidemic Preparedness was observed in 2020, based on the call made by the United Nations General Assembly. The theme of this day for the year 2023 has been 'Legacy of Resilience: Learning from the Past, Preparing for the Future'.

8. Who has recently won the "Great Arab Minds Award" in the field of literature and arts?

- A. Sukrita Paul
- B. Waciny Laredj ☒
- C. Pradip Kumar
- D. Michelle Zarate



- ✓ **Professor Waciny Laredj has won the United Arab Emirates (UAE) 'Great Arab Minds Award' (GAM) in the field of literature and arts. The Great Arab Minds Award is also known as the 'Arab Nobel'.**

9. Which country has recently launched Fatah-II, a multi-launch rocket system?

- A. Bangladesh
- B. Iraq
- C. UAE
- D. Pakistan ☒



- ✓ **On December 27, 2023, Pakistan's military successfully conducted a flight test of the indigenously developed guided multi-launch rocket system Fatah-II. Fattah-2, new and improved hypersonic weapon has been launched by Iran in November 2023.**

10. Which institute is collaborating with Reliance Jio for the launch of the 'Bharat GPT' program?

- A. IIT Delhi
- B. IIT Madras
- C. IIT Mumbai ☒
- D. IISc Bengaluru



- ✓ **Reliance Jio Infocomm, an Indian telecom operator in India, is set to launch a groundbreaking initiative in collaboration with the Indian Institute of Technology-Mumbai — the 'Bharat GPT' program. This program aims to leverage the power of large language models and generative artificial intelligence (GPT) to transform various sectors in the country.**

11. Nandankanan Zoological Park, that was recently making news, is located in which state?

- A. Uttar Pradesh
- B. West Bengal
- C. Odisha ☒
- D. Karnataka



- ✓ The Central Zoo Authority has approved the transfer of a cheetah, African lion, and Chimpanzee from Dubai Safari Park to Nandankanan Zoological Park in Odisha. The NZP, in exchange, will provide various animals including Hippopotamus, blackbuck, hog deer, gaur, red junglefowl, and gharial.

12. Under what brand name, the central government has recently decided to sell rice at Rs 25 per kilo through public distribution system?

- A. Namu B. Bharat ☒
C. Annapurna D. Swadesi



- ✓ Amid rising inflation hitting 10% for rice, the government has decided to start selling rice under the 'Bharat' brand at Rs 25 per kilo through public distribution channels. This is an attempt to boost supply and make the staple more affordable as high cereal costs drive food inflation. The government already sells atta and pulses under the Bharat brand to stabilize prices.

13. Which airport has been named after Maharishi Valmiki as per the recent news?

- A. Lucknow
B. Ayodhya ☒
C. Jodhpur
D. Ujjain



- ✓ The new airport in Ayodhya will be named after sage poet Maharishi Valmiki as 'Maharishi Valmiki International Airport Ayodhya Dham'. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the newly built Ayodhya Airport on December 30, 2023. The news is significant as the airport naming indicates the focus on enhancing Ayodhya's cultural heritage.

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